



### WEEK ONE

JESUS IS PROMISED • ISAIAH 9:6-7, ISAIAH 53:8, MICAH 5:2



#### SAY THIS:

YOU CAN HAVE JOY  
BECAUSE GOD KEEPS  
HIS PROMISES.



#### REMEMBER THIS:

"Always be joyful because  
you belong to the Lord.  
I will say it again. Be joyful!"  
PHILIPPIANS 4:4, NIV



#### DO THIS:



Write the definition of joy in a  
place where your whole family will  
see it every morning: "Finding  
a way to be happy, even when  
things don't go your way." Start  
as many mornings as you can by  
reading it aloud in whatever voice  
or accent you want. Make it fun  
and make it joyful!

#### JOY:

FINDING A WAY TO BE HAPPY,  
EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY



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## I'LL SHOW YOU HONOR

By Liz Hansen

For most of us, the concept of honor is inextricably linked with flags, military salutes and Veteran's Day. After all, the men and women who put their lives on the line for the sake of our freedom are definitely deserving of recognition for the brave work they do.

But at its heart, honor merits a daily, rather than seasonal, role in our lives and families.

One simple way to define honor is this: Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

I'd love to say I do a stellar job of showing honor on a regular basis; however, when it comes to honoring others, I find I'm fighting two common battles:

1. First, my default setting is . . . me. I was born into this skin, I see life through my own unique set of lenses, and without an intentional reset each day (or multiple times a day), my focus lands on how the people and situations in my life affect me—and the things I want and need.

Showing honor requires me to look out, instead of in.

2. Second, honor asks that I take action. So often, I hurry through my day with quick observances of things I appreciate in people that make it no further than a

mental note. Honor means taking those mental notes and translating them into words and actions. Whether it's a special ceremony or just a quick word or email, those individuals I notice will never know I see their true value—to me, to others, and to God—unless I do something about it.

To honor someone is to call out the image of God in that person. And sometimes it takes humility, even courage.

And as I struggle to do this, I know it's something I want my son to see in me. He already has highly developed opinions about how the world should function in relation to what he wants and needs. My job, as a parent, is to slowly instill in him the values to shift this balance. Where his default setting is to look inward, I want to engage him in the struggle we both share—to look outward.

To see the value, the gifts, the efforts of others. And once he sees them, to make a big deal of it! I want him to understand that every single person we meet is made by God, in the image of God, and that to acknowledge that value is a great gift.

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