

This family guide provides a platform for launching a great discussion with your family on the values brought up in Fresh Fruit Pie. Feel free to customize this guide in a way that best fits your needs. We assume most kids have tiny attention spans (as do many adults), so it's short by design.

- 1) Fresh Fruit Pie - "Party!" is all about joy. What makes you happy?
- 2) We are not joyful all the time. Some things make us unhappy. What makes you unhappy?
- 3) In Fresh Fruit Pie, Billy the birthday boy didn't get everything he wanted. What were some things that made him unhappy?
- 4) One way unhappiness shows itself is jealousy. What was Billy jealous of?
- 5) What are you jealous of? And who?
- 6) How did Billy get over his lack of joy?
- 7) At the end of the story, Billy got the toy he wanted, but that doesn't always happen in life. What else could have satisfied him?
- 8) Pick out one area in your life that makes you unhappy. What could satisfy you? What could serve as a replacement, even though you might not get what you want?
- 9) Now think again about everything good you do have. Food? Clothes? A home to sleep in? People that love you? The Internet? Video games? The fact that you're alive and breathing? What else?
- 10) The fact is, you have a lot to be joyful about. You'll never have everything you want, because it's human nature to want more and more and more. The craving never ends. Joy is a choice, and it's a choice you have to make, despite not having everything you want. Work hard at improving your situation in life, yes, but you can be happy with what you have - right now.

Other lessons of joy to consider discussing:

Gifts that are "too small": When the puppet was offered a slice of banana, he refused because he wanted a whole banana. As a result, he got a whole banana all right - or rather 10,000 of them. Can you think of a time someone offered you a gift, but you complained because it was "too small?"

People less fortunate than you: Mr. Grape complained about his small birthday cake, but Mr. Banana explained how most people in the world could never afford even a single birthday cake. Things you take for granted are luxuries in poor areas of the world, such as certain countries in Africa. What are some things you have that are luxuries?

Complaining gets in the way of doing good: Most of the fruit characters were so distracted with their own small problems that they ignored a homeless man sitting right next to them. However, Mr. Banana was quiet, observant, and noticed the man was cold. What good things are you missing out on because of complaining about your situation?

Joy is contagious: The guys in the yellow gas masks "caught" joy from someone else. Joy can in fact spread from one person to the next. Who do you know is so joyful that their positive mood spreads to others? How can you become this person?

Unhappiness leads to disrespecting people: Unhappiness is also like a disease, polluting every part of your life. Look at the kid playing video games - he was unhappy and likewise mean to his mom. What happened to him?

Be joyful, but don't let your joy hurt others: Scar the Pirate was so wrapped up having fun that he accidentally smashed another guy's hand. What things do you do for fun that could hurt or cause discomfort to other people?

Just Dance: Sometimes, if you just drop everything, smile, and start moving your feet, it's impossible to be unhappy. Turn on some music and dance! Life's a party - live it up!