

ART Devotional: *The Joy Jar!*

NO PARKING IN SELF-PITY:

Adapted from *James: Following God's Road Signs for Preteen Girls*

ART SUPPLIES

• FOAM BRUSH

• TWINE

• ELMERS GLUE

• JAR

• TAG

• WIRE

• FABRIC

• BUTTONS & FLOWERS

• HOT GLUE STICKS

• LOW TEMP GLUE GUN • SCISSORS



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SUPPLIES AND INSTRUCTIONS

- Container (soup can, glass jar, rice container, or plastic container) • Glue (Elmers)
- Low-Temp Hot Glue Gun and Glue Sticks
- Foam Brush • Fabric
- Twine, Ribbon, Wire, Yarn, Cording, Trim, Etc.
- Floral Wire (for optional handles) and 20 gauge wire
- Scissors/ Small Hole Punch
- Embellishments (buttons, sequins, etc.)
- Optional: 1 7/8 inch Punch (found at craft stores)
- Optional: Hammer and Nail
- Printer and Cardstock Paper
- Small Hole Punch
- Joy Jar Scripture Sheet

1. Select a container. 2. Use a hammer and nail to make two small holes in the upper top of the opposite sides of container. These holes will be used for handles. 3. Choose fabric, cut to size, and glue onto the surface of your container. 4. Attach the handles using 15 inches of wire. Thread the wire through the pre-cut holes and twist (coil) at ends. 5. Using a low-temp glue gun, embellish the container with more fabric, ribbon, trim, buttons, and more. 7. HAVE FUN ~ this is your Joy Jar!
8. Download Scripture sheet, print, and attach to your Joy Jar using 20g. wire.

- For Scripture Sheet, pictures, and an art instructional video—Go to: www.thouartexalted.com/free-downloads

"Consider it pure JOY my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you KNOW that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
James 1:2-4

Consider it JOY when trouble comes your way? Yeah, right! Why should I be joyful when I am **not** happy? Maybe James wasn't so clued into the world of Middle School.

My headache started in math class when Ms. Meyer sprang a pop-quiz. The whole class got an A, except me. At lunch, I spilled yogurt on my new skirt, (Mom's NOT going to be happy) and then I managed to skin my knee doing a "not-so" graceful fall down the brick steps of the cafeteria. I don't have any friends since I moved to this new school and who's gonna like a yogurt-smelling, leg-bleeding, math drop-out like me?

STOP! If you have had a day like this one, you need to take a serious U-TURN! Parking here in self-pity will only buy you a ticket to misery. God understands your tough days, but He also wants to build your character through them. Counting it all JOY, especially when hard things happen, is a serious change to our normal way of thinking. Our focus tends to stay on ourselves when we are challenged by trials. But God wants us to shift our focus OFF the situation and onto HIM. Why? Because He knows our personal trials expose our faith and what we really believe in. God allows challenges in our life **to build our confidence and trust** in Him.

Trusting in God when life is easy is . . . easy. But when life gets hard, U-TURN your eyes on Him. He is building your FAITH so you will be mature and complete. Don't stop! PERSEVERE! Keep going despite all the bumps in the road—or stains on your skirt.

1. What trials are you going through right now?
2. Trials aren't easy. How can we be joyful in the middle of them?

3. When trials hit your life, because they will, where will you FOCUS? Will self-pity raise it's ugly head, or will your focus be on GOD—TRUSTING that He is building your confidence in Him?

4. Take a look back. How have you persevered during a trial? How did your faith become more mature?

GOD UNDERSTANDS YOUR TOUGH DAYS, BUT HE ALSO WANTS TO BUILD YOUR CHARACTER THROUGH THEM.

Have you ever been sick but started feeling better? Did you stop taking your medicine? What happened? Chances are, you got sick again. Medicine, like perseverance, needs to finish its work so you can be healthy again. When you are faced with trials, **don't park in self-pity**. Keep your FOCUS on God, be patient, and keep taking the medicine of perseverance. Our effort to keep going, despite opposition, will finish its work to make us more mature and complete in our faith!

Lord, thank You for the trials in my life. I pray to count it all joy when I am challenged. I pray to KNOW Your truth and not to get so emotional when I can not see the facts through the tears. You have a PLAN for me, and it is good. Help me to see YOU in the times of testing and persevere as I GROW in my faith and TRUST in You. Amen.

Look up: Jeremiah 29:11, 1 Corinthians 10:13, and 2 Corinthians 1:3,4

- What can we KNOW about our faith during times of trial? Identify **three** things from these verses. (Answers are written below.)

1. God is faithful and has a plan for me. 2. He will never give me beyond what I can handle. 3. I can comfort others because of my trials.

JAMES: Following God's Road Signs is a 27-lesson study of James for pre-teen/teen girls with **seven** art projects. **ART PROJECT Joy Jar:** Write down your trials and place them in your jar. Days or weeks later, see how God answered your trial. For more information on James, go to: www.thouartexalted.com.