READ EXODUS 16:2-3

The Israelites were so busy grumbling and complaining about the conditions they were facing in the desert, they missed out on celebrating their freedom! They had not only been freed from slavery, but they had the Promised Land to look forward to. But they were focused on what they had before, and as a result, they missed out on the party AND the Promised Land.

Draw a picture of your dream party. Think big ... food, decorations, cake, entertainment ... Now, imagine if your mom promised you that party, but instead of getting excited about it, making your invitation list and everything, you started complaining about how awesome last year's party was and how you wish THAT one had never ended. That would be ridiculous! Not only would you probably hurt your mom's feelings, but you would also miss out on all the fun party planning!

THANK God for all of the wonderful things He's given you right now.

READ ECCLESIASTES 6:9

Go outside and lay down on the ground. Look around at the trees. Is the wind blowing? If not, wait a few minutes and it probably will. When you see the wind start to blow, jump up and chase it.

Oh, wait, you can't, can you? Well, you can certainly chase the wind, but what good will it do you? Will you ever be able to catch the wind? And if you could, what would you even do with it?

The Bible says that always wanting more is like chasing the wind. Just like you'll never catch the wind, you'll never have enough if you're always wanting more. And if you do manage to catch the wind, or get more stuff, what will you do with it? Will you just keep wanting more?

ASK God for contentment with the things He has already given you.

DAY 2





READ PSALM 118:24

Have you ever met someone with an Eeyore complex? In other words, someone who is constantly moaning and groaning about things, much like the character Eeyore in Winnie the Pooh. They aren't very fun to be around, are they?

Not only that, but think back to when you used to watch Winnie the Pooh—do you remember how Eeyore always hung his head when he was whining? Because of that, he missed out on so many great things going on around him—things he couldn't see when he was hanging his head down, focused on everything negative.

Write a rap or a cheer that you would sing to Eeyore to get him to lift his head and cheer up. Hold on to it so the next time you're tempted to "pull an Eeyore," it will remind you to choose joy and contentment instead!

LOOK UP for ways that God meets your needs every day, and thank Him!

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DAY 4

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8

Ask a parent for help finding some baby pictures of yourself. Look for a newborn one, one when you learned to sit up and crawl, and one when you were learning to walk. When you were a baby, how did you get around?

Then when you learned how to crawl, you had to work hard and give up the easy days of being carried everywhere. But what did you gain? _

Finally, when you learned to walk, did you decide to have someone carry you all the time, or did you go back to crawling? No! Of course not! The most important thing was for you to keep going, not look back, and continue growing up.

Anything you lost along the way, like being carried everywhere or having a good view of everyone's shoes, seems silly in light of being able to walk, right?! And so it is with our relationship with Jesus—anything we might have to give up to get closer to Jesus is so worth it!

KNOW that giving up some things to grow closer to Jesus is worth the cost.