The Birthday Party

GOD'S WORD

"*Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep.*"

Romans 12:15 (WEB)

THE STORY

At Marcus's birthday party, Marcus opens a giant rocket kit and LJ's smile disappears. He won't even sing "Happy Birthday." Mom reminds him to rejoice with those who rejoice, Dad tells how he once got jealous of his cousin's new bike, and big sister Nykira helps LJ make a sorry card. Then LJ, Marcus and Mateo build the rocket together: three, two, one, blast off!

Grandma tells how Jonathan, the king's son, was happy for his best friend David and gave him his own robe (1 Samuel 18:1–4). "Love is patient and is kind; love doesn't envy" (1 Corinthians 13:4).

TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

1. Why did LJ's smile disappear when Marcus opened the rocket kit? Have you ever felt that way?
2. Dad once felt jealous of his cousin's new bike. Why did LJ make a sorry card for Marcus?
3. Jonathan was happy for David. Who could you be happy for this week?

PRAY TOGETHER

God, thank You for all the good things You give me and my friends. When I feel jealous, help me be happy for others instead. Help me rejoice with those who rejoice, like Jonathan was happy for David. Amen.

TRY THIS WEEK

Practice saying "I'm so happy for you!" when someone in the family gets good news. If someone feels jealous this week, make a sorry card or a happy-for-you card together, like LJ and Nykira did. Say Romans 12:15 together at dinner.

DRAW IT

Draw a happy-for-you card for a friend, or draw LJ, Marcus and Mateo's rocket blasting off.

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