

Learn by Doing

Choice

Joyful Priorities

Today's parable ends with the statement, "So the last will be first, and the first last." In this activity, students create a hanging decoration that reminds them how to prioritize the Lord and others in order to prepare for heaven. Depending on the amount of time you have and the age of your group, decide whether to make a one or (*optional*) two sided hanging.

1. Have students cut out the *JOY Letters Front* (p. 2) while you discuss.
2. Our job in this world is to make the Lord (Jesus) the most important thing in our life, and to make other people the second most important.
3. It *is* good to care about ourselves. It only becomes selfish when we put ourselves first, above the Lord and other people.
4. What do the letters spell when put in order with the Lord first? (Joy)
5. What does joy have to do with putting what we care about in order? (Doing this prepares us to experience the eternal joy of heaven.)
6. When the letters are all cut out, lay them on the table face down, one on top of another, spaced as shown in the picture. Tape the yarn or ribbon to the back of the letters.
7. *Optional*: Have students cut out and decorate the *JOY Letters Back* (p. 3). **Decorate the printed side.** Tape the letters back-to-back with the *JOY Letters Front* pieces so the ribbon is sandwiched between them.



Prepare in Advance

Print *JOY Letters Front* p. 2 on stiff paper. Cut ribbon into 20" (50 cm) pieces.

Optional: Print *JOY Letters Back* p. 3 on stiff paper.

New Church Concept

First Will Be Last

People who place merit in their actions wish to be saved not because of the Lord's righteousness, but because of their own. Some like this, after death, say they worked in the Lord's vineyard, but they continually had in mind their own superiority and gain and thought that they might become greatest in heaven. They have no mutual love but only love of self and do not know what heaven is. They wish to be first, but become last. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2027



