



## I Love to Cruise

By Olivia Jones

(As shared during Vacation Bible School 2020)



I love to cruise. The endless buffets of food, ice cream for breakfast, fireworks at night and the adventure of waking up in a new place every day. It is the best. I only have to decide what swimsuit to wear that day. There is nothing else to worry about. It is amazing to feel the power of the ocean as the ship moves across the water. It is then that I realize, that even though the ship is huge, the ocean is even larger, and that the strength of the waves can make the cruise either miserable or relaxing. If the waves are too strong, I may feel seasick, and I just have to hold on for the ride.

That is kind of like life. The waves of life can be discouraging, and sometimes, bad things happen; you flunk your math test, lose your job, or do not get the opportunity that you wanted. You can feel like you are just moving with the tide beneath the cruise ship. It can be hard and disappointing, and if you are not careful, the waves will get so big that you will lose sight of all the good things God has done for you. You will start to focus on what is wrong in your life, or how big your problems are instead of your blessings. Do not take for granted your family, friends and all of the things that God has given to you.

Cruising puts life into perspective. When the waves are calm, it is easy to notice the warm breeze and smell the salt in the air, and to stop and appreciate the gift of the day. We should do that anyway. Cruising helps to reset our perspective, and to be grateful that God is greater than the waves. He made the waves.

When you stand on the beach, have you ever noticed that no matter what, the waves keep coming? Sometimes they are rough and knock you down, and sometimes they are gentle. Either way, the waves keep coming. You have to decide what your perspective will be. Will you let the strong waves steal your joy? Or will you decide to be grateful that God is supplying all of your needs?

Life is a cruise. We determine our perspective, and how we will respond to every situation that we face. When I go on a cruise, I feel small looking out into the night sky filled with thousands of stars, but I am grateful that God is looking down on me. Our Vacation Bible School scripture from Ephesians 1:5 in the Amplified Bible says, "For He foreordained us, planned in love for us to be revealed as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will." This tells me that God is guiding my life through the disappointments and joys, and I can relax knowing that I am on cruise control in His hands. There is nothing that is going to happen in my life that He has not authored.

No matter how strong the waves, let God guide your cruise, and be grateful for every wave that you experience.