



WEEK TWO – MAY 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *I Won't Back Down • Acts 16:16–40*

Bottom Line: *You can choose joy when life gets hard.*

Memory Verse: *“But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.” – Isaiah 40:31 NIV*

Life App: *Perseverance – Refusing to give up when life gets hard*

Basic Truth: *I need to make the wise choice*

Summary: Next, we head to Acts 16:16–40 to discover what happens when Paul and Silas were arrested. They could have given up their calling to spread the message of Jesus. However, even in the middle of this difficult situation they decided to worship God. And when the time came, they had the right words at the right time and helped the jailer and his family start a relationship with Jesus.

8:50–9:00 | 10:20–10:30 | 11:50–12:00 – EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- As kids arrive, encourage them to sit in a circle, putting their right hand under the left hand of the person next to them, and their left hand on top of the hand of the person sitting to their left.
- Explain that you all are going to go around the circle and clap the hand to your left and say something that brings you joy.
- Encourage the group to go as quickly as they can!
- Make it fun and challenging by putting a timer on your phone for 20–30 seconds (depending on how many kids you have.)
- After you have played a few rounds, make a list as a group and save the list for later.

2. Can't Stop Smiling

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to find a partner.
- Explain that they will be competing against their partner to see who can keep a straight face for the longest time without laughing.
- They can make faces and funny sounds, but the winner is the person who lasts the longest without laughing or smiling.
- After each round, encourage kids to find a new partner and try again!

What You Say:

“Was anybody able to keep a straight face the entire time? (Allow time for conversation and responses.) That is much harder to do than it sounds! I love that as hard as we tried, we couldn't help but smile. [Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to learn about two people who decided to have joy even though they were faced with some pretty hard circumstances.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10–9:45 | 10:40–11:15 | 12:10–12:45 – LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *You can choose joy when life gets hard. We will all face times when life is hard. How we respond to those situations matters. We hope that kids start to understand that when they choose joy, they can point others to Jesus.*

9:45–10:05 | 11:15–11:35 | 12:45–1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Joy Finished Story

[Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through reenactment

What You Need: “Joy-finished Story” Activity Pages, markers

What You Do:

- Give every kid an Activity Page, and set out the markers.
- Talk through each scenario in the left hand boxes.
- Encourage kids to use the blank boxes to the right of each situation to draw out what the end of those stories could look like if they decided to choose joy even though things were hard.
- Kids can color the boxes on the left once they’ve finished drawing.
- Invite kids to share out loud some of the ways they decided to finish the stories.

What You Say:

*“I am so inspired by each of you to choose joy even when things are hard. We have so many reasons to be joyful because of how awesome God is! Can anyone think of how we can be joyful this week? (Allow time for responses.) Those are great ideas! Remember, there are times when things are just not going our way. Or maybe, things go really wrong, but no matter what we are facing, **[Bottom Line] you can choose joy when life gets hard.**”*

2. How High?

[Memory Verse Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “How High” Activity Pages, markers

What You Do:

- Read Isaiah 40:31 together several times.
- Instruct your group to write in the missing word in today's part of the memory verse.
- Encourage them to decorate their papers using the markers.
- As kids decorate and color, ask them if they've ever seen an eagle or other large bird flying and soaring in the sky.
- Tell kids the Bible tells us that trusting in God is kind of like being able to fly and soar like an eagle: God gives us strength to do things we wouldn't be able to do without Him.
- When kids are finished, ask them to stand up and place their paper on the floor in front of them.
- Explain that the arrows on their paper tell them which direction to jump, based on which part of the paper they're facing.
- The top arrow is telling them to jump "up" above their paper. (demonstrate by jumping up, above and over the paper.)
- Encourage your kids to join you in jumping and "soaring" as you say today's part of the memory verse.
- Repeat the phrase and continue jumping as long as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

*"I'm excited that we were given another tool to train with this week. Training gives us strength for races and sports, but our verse tells us that we can also gain strength by trusting in God. You know, a BIG part of trusting God is choosing joy even when it looks like we have nothing to be joyful about. God's strength helps us do just that. **[Bottom Line] You can choose joy when life gets hard.**"*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: List from Early Arriver activity

What You Do:

- Pull out the joyful list from Early Arriver, and review all of the reasons to be joyful.
- Remind kids that when they feel like something hard has gotten them down and they want to stop trying, they can thank God and think about one of the reasons for joy the group wrote down today.

What You Say:

"God, we know there are times when things just don't go our way. As hard as it may be, we know that we can choose joy when life gets hard. Thank You for all the things that bring us joy, like (read list). Thank You for reminding us of this joy. In Jesus' name, amen!"

As adults arrive to pick up, point out the kids’ “Joy-Finished Stories,” and prompt kids to tell their adults how they finished each story. Remind kids that [Bottom Line] you can choose joy when life gets hard.