



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Pre-selected Small Group Leader and his/her group
- Workout clothes for the Host
- Disposable poncho for the Leader
- Tarp or drop cloth
- Kiddie pool that the Leader can stand in
- "Mud" (watered-down chocolate pudding) to fill the kiddie pool halfway
- Bucket of water
- Laminated letters: (one J, one O, one Y, and 20 X) or you could use any type of plastic letters
- Paper towels and wet wipes

#### Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music for the game

#### Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Perseverance Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

#### Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video
- Life App Video
- Life App Transition to Theme Video

**What You Do:**

- Pre-select a Leader who's okay with getting a little messy. If he/she could wear shorts and/or sandals, it would make things simpler.
- Set the tarp or drop cloth down on the stage. Set the kiddie pool on top of it. Fill the kiddie pool about halfway with "mud" (watered-down chocolate pudding).
- Print or write the selected letters on sheets of paper (either two or four to a page) and laminate them.

## 2. Bible Story

**What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Table
- Prop bin containing:
  - Action figures to represent the following characters: Paul, Silas, Lydia, servant girl, and jailer
  - Dollhouse or superhero cave play set to represent the jailer's house
  - Some type of food (granola bar, preschool play food, etc.)
- Laundry basket (grid-style)
- Bucket of water that's big enough to dip action figures into

*Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- "Superman Returns—Main Titles" (0:27–0:43)
- SFX: Dream harp
- SFX: Wah-wah-wah
- "Hallelujah" from Handel's *Messiah*, cued up to choir's first entrance (probably around 0:07, depending on the recording)
- "I'm Still Standing" from *Sing* (0:42–1:15)

*Large Group Visuals:*

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

**What You Do:**

- Cue up the music to start at the times designated above. You can set the start time in iTunes by going to Edit / Song Info / Options.

## 3. Worship

**What You Need:**

- Every Beat
- Through It All

# I Won't Back Down

**Bible Story:** I Won't Back Down (Paul and Silas in Prison) • 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 (NIRV)

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

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

## **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

**CG:** *Theme Slide*

**Optional Video (Media Package):** *Theme Loop*

*Host enters, dressed in workout clothes.*

**Optional Video (Media Package):** *Countdown (30- or 60-second version)*

**Optional Video (Media Package):** *Theme*

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "Hey, everybody! It's so great to see you here today. I've been working hard at training for my mud run. It can be pretty tough to run in the mud, but I won't give up! Why? Because this month we're talking about perseverance.

**CG:** *Perseverance Slide*

**Optional Video (Media Package):** *Life App*

**"Perseverance is refusing to give up when life gets hard.**

**Optional Video (Media Package):** *Life App Transition to Theme*

"Last week we did a challenge that focused on balance, but this week, I thought we could practice getting messy! After all, I'll be running (*run in place really fast*) and jumping (*jump up and down a few times*) and crawling under things (*get down really low*) and climbing over things (*pretend to be climbing over something*), and I'll be doing ALL of that in wet, slimy mud!

"I need one whole small group and their Leader to help me train today. I'm hoping you can show me how it's done.

*Bring up an entire small group, including their (pre-selected) Leader. Hand the poncho to the Leader.*

*(To the Leader)* "Here, you'll need this, and you'll need to take off your shoes and socks, because you'll be getting in here.

*Bring the Leader over to the pool full of “mud” (watered-down chocolate pudding).*

*(To the Leader)* “When the timer starts, you’ll feel around in the mud to find letters. There are three letters that spell out a word, and there are also a bunch of Xs. Any Xs you find are NOT part of the word.

“[Leader’s name], when you find a letter, hand it to one of your friends here. They’ll dip it in the bucket of water to reveal what letter it is. Then they’ll work as a group to try to figure out what the letters spell. If you get any Xs, just drop them on the tarp here, okay?”

“Let’s see how quickly you can solve the puzzle and figure out the word! Everyone else, cheer them on. Ready, set, go!”

**SFX: Fun music**

*Comment on the action, and help the kids rinse off the letters if needed.*

“All right. You found the letters J-O-Y, which spells what? *(Pause for response.)* Right—joy! That’s interesting, because I thought we were talking about perseverance. Maybe joy has something to do with that. I bet we’ll find out soon!”

*(To contestants)* “Contestants, you can clean up really quick and head back to your seats.”

*Give the contestants some paper towels and wet wipes to clean up, and let the Leader throw the poncho away. Dismiss all contestants to their seats.*

## **Announcements**

*Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.*

**HOST:** “I’m so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it’s your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you and get a high-five! Your group leaders are here almost every week... they’re pretty amazing. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. At the core of who we are as a church, we believe that **JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE!**”

“I have just a few announcements for you all today...”

*Share any/all announcements.*

“One of the things we do each week to help us focus on God is to sing... some of you will know the words to the songs, so we want you to shout and sing them out really loud. If you don’t know the words... they’ll be on the screen for you. Feel free to clap, jump, sing and shout along with us! The best part about this is the message of the song and how good God is! Let’s all stand up and sing together!”

*Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.*

“Let’s take some time to worship God and thank Him for being our awesome Creator. Everyone stand up and get ready to sing!”

### **Worship**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Thank you, *[Name of Host]*. Let’s get up and get loud as we sing and dance for who God is and what he’s done for us!

### **Every Beat**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “That was amazing! (*Take a moment to say something about the next song*). So let’s give everything we have and worship God together!

### **Through It All**

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### **CG: Theme Slide**

### **Setting up the story**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hey, everybody! My name is [your name] and I’m excited to tell you about something really cool that happened (*use your best deep voice to sound like a movie announcer*) a long, long time ago . . . in a galaxy far, far away.

(*Back to regular voice*) “Just kidding. Our story today isn’t really from a galaxy far away, but it did happen a long time ago in a city named Philippi. Philippi was a busy city where lots of people from different countries came to buy, sell, and trade things in the marketplace.

*Move over to the table with the bin of action figures and props.*

“One of the important people in our story was a guy named Paul.

*Hold up the action figure representing Paul. Make him fly through the air.*

### **SFX: “Superman Returns—Main Titles,” from 0:27 to 0:43**

“Okay. Paul wasn’t actually a superhero. And he didn’t fly. But he did spend his life traveling around to different cities, telling people how much God loved them and how they could follow Jesus.

“At one point, Paul had a vision—or a dream.

### **SFX: Dream harp**

"In this vision, a man was begging Paul to come to Macedonia. The man wanted Paul and his friend, Silas (*hold up the 'Silas' action figure*), to come and tell the people of Macedonia about Jesus. Paul and Silas decided to go, and they were so glad they did. They started sharing the story of Jesus, and people began to believe!

"One of the new believers was a woman named Lydia. (*Hold up the 'Lydia' action figure.*) She offered them a place to stay."

### **wah-wah-wah**

**STORYTELLER:** "One day, while Paul and Silas were walking around the city teaching about Jesus, a servant girl (*hold up the 'servant girl' action figure*) began to follow them around. She would cry out and interrupt what they were trying to do.

**SFX:** *Wah-wah-wah*

"This woman was controlled by a spirit that didn't come from God. The men she worked for used it to make money. Paul and Silas tried to ignore her at first, but she followed them everywhere.

**SFX:** *Wah-wah-wah*

*Use the action figures to show how the woman followed Paul and Silas around.*

"Finally, Paul commanded the spirit to leave her, and it did. She was free! But the girl's bosses weren't happy. They dragged Paul and Silas to face the city judges. The judges ordered Paul and Silas to be whipped and put in jail."

*Put the laundry basket upside down over the Paul and Silas action figures.*

### **jailhouse rock**

**STORYTELLER:** "While they were in prison, Paul and Silas did something that most people would think is very strange. They didn't play cards. They didn't whine and complain. Wait for it . . . they SANG SONGS!"

**SFX:** *"Hallelujah" from Handel's Messiah, cued up to the choir's first entrance (probably around 0:07)*

"For real! Paul and Silas were singing and praying to God while the other prisoners listened. Suddenly, the earth began to shake (*shake the upside-down laundry basket*). Doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose!

*Take the laundry basket off and set it aside.*

"The jailer (*hold up the 'jailer' action figure*) knew he would be in so much trouble if all the prisoners escaped. But listen to what happened next.

*Open the Bible to Acts 16:28-31 (NIRV) and read.*

**"Don't harm yourself!" Paul shouted. "We are all here!" The jailer called out for some lights. He rushed in, shaking with fear. He fell down in front of Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out. He asked,**

**“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved.” Acts 16:28-31**

**as for me and my house**

**STORYTELLER:** “The jailer washed Paul and Silas’s wounds.

*Dip Paul and Silas in the bucket of water.*

“He took them to his home and made a meal for them.

*Pick up the “jailer’s house” (dollhouse or superhero cave play set) and set it on the table. Put some kind of food in front of Paul and Silas.*

“Paul and Silas shared the news of Jesus with the entire household, and every person in the jailer’s family became a believer!

“In the morning, the city judges sent orders to release Paul and Silas. Paul said they had been beaten and thrown into jail without a trial, even though they were Roman citizens. The judges said they were sorry. They led Paul and Silas out of prison and asked them to leave the city immediately.

“Paul and Silas were free!”

**SFX: “I’m Still Standing” from Sing, from 0:42 to 1:15**

*Make Paul and Silas dance along with the music. Bring in some other characters for the “yeahs.”*

**wrapping up THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Once they were released from prison, Paul and Silas went to Lydia’s house. (*Pick up the Lydia action figure.*) They encouraged the new believers. Then they left Philippi to continue sharing about Jesus in new towns and cities.

*Put all the action figures and props back in the bin.*

“I think it’s amazing that Paul and Silas were sitting in PRISON singing songs about God and praying! Do you know why they were able to do that? Let me tell you why! Because God gave them joy, even in a bad situation.”

“Sometimes things happen to us that are tough. Things happen that we don’t understand. But even in those times, you can **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.** You can do what Paul and Silas did.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “You can choose joy when life gets hard.**

“Let’s all say that together.”

**STORYTELLER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “You can choose joy when life gets hard!”**

**STORYTELLER:** “That’s right! Let’s pray.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### **Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “God, thank You so much for helping Paul and Silas choose joy even when things seemed terrible. Please help us to learn to do that, too. We know that You’re always with us and that Your love can give us joy even when life gets hard. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

### **Closer**

**HOST:** “Wow! Paul and Silas were able to choose joy even though they were in JAIL! And because they were able to do that, lots of other people decided to follow God!

“We can choose joy, too. Joy comes when you put your trust in God. Tough things might happen in life—like if you’re having a tough time making friends, or you’re not getting along with your brother or sister. In those times, try focusing on the good things you know are true—like how God loves you and He sent Jesus to save you. You can find joy in those things.

“If you do, others will notice. They’ll wonder where your joy comes from. And then you can tell them it comes from putting your trust in God.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “You can choose joy when life gets hard.**

“So, whatever happens this week, remember to choose joy! You can head to Small Group now. I’ll see you later!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.**

**CG: Theme Slide**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**