



WEEK TWO – MAY 2019 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *Why is it worth it to keep going?*

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 can trust God no matter what.*

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. Just For Fun

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Yarn

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
- Invite kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- Give kids a piece of rope or yarn.
- Challenge kids to tie a knot in the rope:
 - Without letting go of the ends
 - With a partner, each only using one hand and not letting go of the ends
 - Using only one hand
 - Behind their backs, using one hand
- For a visual, search for “how to tie a knot with one hand” or “how to tie a knot without letting go.”

What You Say:

“Let’s head to Large Group to hear about something we should choose to look for and it is something worth finding.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *Why is it worth it to keep going? Having perseverance can be hard. While you’re in the middle of it, it’s hard to imagine why any of the difficulties are worth it. We want preteens to start thinking about and articulating why it’s worth it to have perseverance when life gets hard.*

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

1. Take A Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Slips of paper, container, pencils, timer or mobile device

What You Do:

- Give kids three slips of paper.
- Instruct kids to write on each slip of paper a word or phrase they associate with joy.
 - For example: something you do that brings you joy, something you have that brings you joy, or how you show joy.
 - It is best if the words are nouns or verbs.
- Place the slips of paper in a container.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Explain teams will compete in a guessing game, similar to the game Fishbowl.
 - There will be three rounds. “Clue Givers” have one minute to get their team to guess as many words as possible.
 - Teams score a point for each word they guess correctly.
 - After each round, teams return the clues to the container. (Hint: Make sure kids are aware that the clues for each round are the same; therefore, if they make a mental note of the clues as they’re given, it’ll give them a leg up on the other team!)
 - The rules for clue giving for each round are:
 - Round 1: The Clue Giver draws cards and gives verbal clues to their teams; teammates guess what word is on the card. Verbal clues cannot be “sounds like” or a clue as to how to spell the word, e.g. it starts with a “G.”
 - Round 2: Teams select a new Clue Giver. The Clue Giver draws cards and acts out clues for their team to guess the word on their slip of paper. Just like in charades, the Clue Giver cannot make a sound.
 - Round 3: Teams select a new Clue Giver. The Clue Giver draws cards and gives one-word clues to their teammates.
- Potential words could be: singing, dancing, smiling, laughing, puppies, sports, hiking, nature, kittens, ice cream, family, friends, jumping for joy, etc.

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Words associated with joy from Take a Snapshot Activity

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Refer to the words associated with joy from the Take a Snapshot Activity. How could remembering what brings you joy help you keep going when things get

hard? (This is an opportunity to talk about how being thankful for what God has given us can help us to have joy in difficult circumstances.)

- How does your attitude affect your ability to keep going even when things get hard? What does it show the world when we choose joy even in difficult circumstances?
- How have you seen someone else joyfully persevere through a really hard time? How did you feel, experiencing their attitude during their tough circumstances?
- Why is it worth it to refuse to give up even when it is hard?

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Stickers from the Verse to Take with You Activity

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to pick a key word sticker from the egg cartons from the Verse to Take with You Activity. Encourage them to choose a word that means something to them or that they can relate to.
 - Maybe they are struggling with a difficult situation.
 - Maybe their family is going through a tough time and they're not sure they have the strength to keep going.
- Pair kids up.
- Encourage kids share with each other why they picked the sticker they did.
- Allow kids time to pray for each other, asking the Holy Spirit to help them to keep going and to have joy even when it is hard.