



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Sing, Sing, Sing

Paul and Silas in Prison
Acts 16:16-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can choose joy
when life gets hard.

MONTHLY 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

HOST

- Host
- Several blindfolds (optional)

STORY

- Three kid volunteers
- Three baseball caps: one with a "P" on it, one with an "S" on it, and one with a "J" on it
- Backpack
- Small toy boat
- Four PVC pipes that the kids can hold up as "jail bars"
- Two small bandages, such as Band-Aids®
- Empty pizza box

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **HAPPY MAY**
- **RESILIENCE** Getting back up when something gets you down
 - All month long, we will be focusing on the message of **RESILIENCE**
 - For **HOSTS** and **COMMUNICATORS**, please be ready to share your own stories of **RESILIENCE** while
- **SERVE DAY** was yesterday
 - **Recap Vid**
- **SUMMER CAMP** for 3rd grade - Still time to sign up
- **LAUNCH** happens **NEXT WEEK** May 22... so we'll say goodbye to 3rd grade and hello to a new group of **Kindergartners**

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - Never Gonna Stop Singing & The Blessing

Week 2 - Let Go & There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

Week 3 - This is Living & Graves Into Gardens

Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Who You Say I Am

Week 5 - Real Love & Waymaker



WEEK
THREE
MAY 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Sing, Sing, Sing
Paul and Silas in Prison
Acts 16:16-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can choose joy
when life gets hard.

MONTHLY 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

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Resilience—Getting back up
when something gets you down**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: This is Living
AUDIO: Graves Into Gardens

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "What's up, everybody? My name is [your name], and I'm so excited to see you here at [your environment's name]. This month, we've been talking about resilience.

SLIDE: LIFE APP
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Resilience is getting back up when something gets you down.

SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"It's important that we learn to be resilient, because all of us have to face tough things from time to time. With God's help, we can find a way to bounce back . . . so those tough things don't KEEP us down.

"Today's game is fun test of resilience that I call 'The Flamingo Challenge'! We're about to find out who can stand on one foot the longest—like this. (Demonstrate.) Get it? Like a flamingo!



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“First, I want to see which of our Small Group Leaders can stand on one foot the longest. Ready, leaders? You can go ahead and stand on one foot, right where you are. But if your other foot touches the ground, then have a seat. Let’s get started!

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC

Comment on the action as the leaders play the game. Congratulate the last leader standing. (If more than one are still “in” after about a minute, stop the game and congratulate all who are still standing.)

“All right—now the rest of you get to play! First, everyone stand and circle-up with your small group. When I say, ‘Go,’ everyone will stand on one foot. If your other foot touches the ground, it’s time to sit down. The person in your group who stands on one foot the longest will advance to the final round . . . on stage. Okay, are you ready? Three, two, one, GO!

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC

Have groups compete to see who can stand on one foot the longest.

Once you have a “winner” from each group, bring the winners up on stage to compete in the final round.

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC

If it feels like the game is going long, you could level up the challenge by giving the kids blindfolds or having them switch feet or swing their arms. When kids are out, make sure you cheer for them and mention how well they did, to avoid embarrassing anybody.

“That was lots of fun! You ALL looked like flamingos. It was really quite amazing!



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BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! Our story today starts with a man named Paul. Would someone like to come on stage and play the part of Paul?"

Choose an older boy to be Paul and join you on the stage. Give him a baseball cap with a "P" on it to wear.

"Paul had once been an enemy of anyone who followed Jesus. In fact, he did everything he could to try to STOP people from believing in Jesus. (to "Paul") But don't worry, Paul. Things changed pretty quickly. (to audience) You see, when Paul actually MET Jesus, he suddenly put his FAITH in Jesus. He believed that Jesus really is the Son of God.

"After a time of prayer and study, Paul began to travel farther from Jerusalem.

Give the backpack to "Paul" and have him put it on.

"Paul shared the good news about Jesus, and he started brand-new churches everywhere he went.

"In some places, Paul was welcomed.

Give Paul a high-five.

"But in other towns, people were angry and kicked him out of town.

Scowl and cross your arms.

"Still, Paul kept going. When God told Paul to go to a place called Macedonia, Paul and his friends set sail on a boat and traveled there.

Hand the small toy boat to Paul.

(to Paul) "Do you think you and your friends can fit on that? Maybe?"

"Well, at any rate, Paul and his companions landed in the city of Philippi. In Philippi, a woman named Lydia put her faith in Jesus. Her home became the location where the new followers of Jesus in the area became a church. (Look into the audience.) Actually, I think I see Lydia right now.

(to a girl in the audience) "Lydia, thank you for opening your home so we can all worship and talk about God together. We appreciate it!"



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PAUL AND SILAS GET INTO TROUBLE

STORYTELLER: (to audience) "One day, Paul was on his way to the place of prayer, along with his friend Silas.

(looking around) "Let's see . . . Silas . . . Silas . . . Silas!

Choose another boy (who's raising his hand) to join you on stage. Give him a baseball cap with an "S" on it to wear.

"As Paul and Silas walked along, they were met by a woman who was acting strangely. This woman followed them around and kept shouting . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 16:17 (NIRV) and read.

"These men serve the Most High God. They are telling you how to be saved.

"The woman's words were true. But she was being controlled by a spirit who did not come from God. She followed Paul and Silas and did this for many days.

"Finally, Paul turned to the woman and said . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 16:18 (NIRV) and read.

"In the name of Jesus Christ . . . I command you to come out of her!

"The spirit left the woman . . . but there was a problem. Some men had been using this woman to make money for them. Since she had been freed by the power of Jesus, they could no longer do this.

"The men grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the judges. They wanted Paul and Silas to be punished. They said that Paul and Silas were making trouble. Sadly, Paul and Silas were beaten, whipped, and thrown in prison.

(to "Paul" and "Silas") "Sorry, friends."

Hand the PVC pipes to Paul and Silas, and show them how to hold them up like jail bars.

LET'S JAM

STORYTELLER: "The jailer put Paul and Silas deep inside the prison and fastened their feet so they couldn't get away.

"Now, think about this for a second. (Reference Paul and Silas.) These poor guys hadn't done anything wrong. They were just telling people the good news about Jesus . . . then they HEALED a woman . . . and now they were stuck behind bars!

"Paul and Silas could have complained or whined about what had happened to them. But they didn't. Can you guess what they did instead? (Pause for response.) Deep inside that prison, Paul and Silas chose to pray and sing songs to God! Can you believe that? Why don't we imagine we're there in that prison with them, and sing the song we sang just a minute ago, [song's name]. Ready? Hit it!



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AUDIO: "CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP" / TRACK 11 FROM CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP—FULL MIX, STARTING FROM THE BEGINNING

Lead the audience in singing along to the music.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC (FADE AT 0:30, JUST BEFORE THE FIRST VERSE BEGINS)

"That was great! Thanks for singing, everyone.

"Now, get this—while Paul and Silas prayed and sang, something amazing happened. Suddenly, an EARTHQUAKE shook the prison—BOOM! The doors flow open, and everyone's chains came loose."

Take away the "prison bars."

THE JAILER'S STORY

STORYTELLER: "All this commotion woke up the jailer who was in charge of the prison. Who wants to play the jailer?"

Choose another kid (who's raising his/her hand) to join you on stage. Give him/her a baseball cap with a "J" on it to wear.

"First, let's rewind to when the jailer was snoring.

Nod to the jailer to cue him/her to pretend to snore.

"When the earthquake happened, the jailer woke up . . . and he saw that the prison doors were open. He thought the prisoners had escaped, which would mean big trouble for him. He was so worried!

Wave your arms in the air and cue the jailer to mimic you.

"But Paul shouted, 'We are all here!' (Acts 16:28, NIV)

"The jailer was amazed at these men who didn't try to escape. He could tell there was something different about Paul and Silas. He asked them . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 16:30 (NIV) and read.

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

"Listen to what Paul and Silas told him.

Open the Bible to Acts 16:31 (NIV) and read.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved.

"Paul and Silas told the jailer all about Jesus and how to follow Him. The jailer then did something amazing. He took Paul and Silas into his own home, and he took care of their wounds.



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Give two bandages to the jailer, and cue him/her to stick them onto Paul and Silas.

"Perfect. They're better already!

"Paul and Silas shared the truth about Jesus with everyone in the house, and all of them were baptized! The jailer then prepared a meal for Paul and Silas.

Give the pizza box to the jailer, and cue him/her to pretend to offer some to Paul and Silas.

"In the morning, the judges of the city sent a message to the jailer to release Paul and Silas. Paul said that the judges should come let them out themselves . . . which is exactly what happened. The judges said they were sorry, and they asked Paul and Silas to leave the city."

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "After all of this, Paul and Silas returned to Lydia's home.

Point to "Lydia," in the audience, and wave.

"They took the time to encourage all the believers who had gathered there. Then they left, knowing that God was with them and would continue to be with them as they shared the good news about Jesus.

"Let's thank all of our actors for helping tell the story today!

Applaud the kid volunteers. Collect the props as you dismiss them to their seats.

"It's pretty amazing how Paul and Silas chose JOY in the middle of an awful situation. And you know what? That's something we can do, too! We can find a way to be joyful, even when we're facing something tough. That will help us bounce back when life doesn't go the way we expect.

"Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"you can choose joy when life gets hard.

"Let's pray and ask God to help us do that."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for this amazing story! Thank you for helping Paul and Silas to choose joy, even when they were going through a really difficult time. It's so cool how they prayed and sang to You from that deep, dark prison! Please show us how we can choose joy like they did. When we face tough things in life, give us the strength to remember that You're with us and **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “If you want to know what it means to be resilient, check out Paul and Silas! I mean, these two men were thrown in prison for following Jesus and for helping someone get well. They hadn’t done anything wrong, and still, they were being punished! They must have felt pretty angry, sad, and discouraged while all of that was happening.

“But in the prison, Paul and Silas made a choice. They didn’t let their tough situation keep them down. They praised God! They remembered that God was right there with them, and that’s how they were able to choose joy.

“I think that’s something we can do when something gets US down.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“You can choose joy when life gets hard.

“The truth is, there are times in life when things just don’t go the way we want them to. Things happen that we don’t expect. And that can make us feel really angry or frustrated.

“But we don’t have to let our anger and frustration take over. We can be resilient. We can choose to focus on what’s good instead of what’s bad. We can think about the good things that will ALWAYS be true: that God loves us, and God is always with us. We can pray and ask God to help us choose joy.

“In Small Group, you’ll get to talk some more about how you can choose joy in tough situations. In fact, you can head that way now. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP