

3-5 YEAR -OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

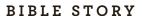
GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



Jesus can help me choose joy.

PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON ACTS 16:16-34

MEMORY VERSE

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NLT

KEY QUESTION

Who can help you do everything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can help me do everything.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



SHOW JOY

WHAT YOU NEED: Floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Tape a large rectangle on the floor of the activity area to be a stage.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite the children, either one at a time or in groups, to go on the stage and do something that shows joy like dance, clap, smile, or laugh.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! Today we're going to show each other how we show joy! We can show joy by smiling, dancing, or just doing anything that makes us happy. I made us a cool stage. (*Point to the rectangle.*) We can all get on the stage and show our JOY!" (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job, friends. I love watching everyone show joy. Did you know that Jesus can help us choose joy? We'll hear all about it in our Bible story today!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by dancing to the story area.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can help me choose joy.

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ROLLING WITH JOY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Joy Roll" Activity Page, copy paper, scissors, tape, and empty tissue box

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Joy Roll" on paper and cut on the dotted lines; one set per small group. Tape one card to each side of the tissue box to make a game die.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Choose a child to go first and ask them to roll the die. Identify the action of joy that shows. Read the directions under the picture and do the action with the children. The pictures are as follows: Clap your hands, jump for joy, shout "Hooray," dance, sing, and smile.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus can help us find joy!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We have a die that we can play with today. It has pictures of ways we can show joy. Let's roll it and act out what it says!" (Do activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so much fun! Jesus helps us find joy! Who can help you do everything? Jesus can help me do everything!"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can help me choose joy.

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MEMORY VERSE

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PAUL AND SILAS MAZE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Paul and Silas Maze" Activity Page, paper, and crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

paper; one per child. Set the pages on the table with the crayons nearby.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children find a spot at the table. Point out Paul and Silas at the start of the maze. Encourage them to complete the maze, drawing a line through the maze from Paul and Silas to the joy symbol at the end. Make sure each child's name is on the page and set out for pick-up.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather crayons for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, find a spot at the table. I see a fun maze!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's see if you can find your way through the maze. Use a crayon to lead Paul and Silas to find the joy."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Paul and Silas sang songs and had joy because they knew that Jesus was their friend forever. Jesus can help us choose joy! Jesus can help you do everything. Who can help you do everything? Jesus can help me do everything."



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can help me choose joy.

PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON ACTS 16:16-34

MEMORY VERSE

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NLT

KEY QUESTION

Who can help you do everything?

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BASIC TRUTH

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JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Philippians 4:13; journal; and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time!
Today, we'll sing a song while we walk to our Small Group
spot, just like Paul and Silas sang in our story today. (Choose a simple song like
"Jesus Loves Me" or "If You're Happy and You Know It." Lead the children in
singing while walking to your Small Group spot.)

"You sound wonderful! Now, let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)

"Today in our Bible story, Paul and Silas chose joy, even though they were in a sad place. What did Paul and Silas do when they chose joy? (*Pause.*) Yes! They sang to God. Paul and Silas knew that Jesus was their friend forever and Jesus helped them choose joy. Jesus can help us choose joy, too, because Jesus can help us do everything! Who can help you do everything?"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus can help me do everything!"

sgl: "And the Bible verse we are learning will help us remember that Jesus can help us do everything. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength,' Philippians 4:13. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say those words together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "I can (thumbs to chest) do everything (march) through Christ (point up), who gives me strength,' (muscle arms) Philippians 4:13." (Open hands like a book.)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "Yay! That's was wonderful! (*Clap.*) Now, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"Today, we'll do something special in our prayer journal. When I write your name, I want you to draw a happy face or a smile in our journal. Then when we pray, we can thank God for sending us Jesus to help us choose joy. (Say each child's name as you write it down and then let that child draw a happy face or a smile by their name. Remember to print so the children can recognize their





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(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

names and the letters.)

"Look how happy our journal looks! Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, choosing joy when we are in a sad place is hard. Thank You for sending Jesus to help us choose joy. Jesus can help us do everything! You are the best God, and we love You. In Jesus' name, amen."