



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

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.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What helps you keep going?

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can choose joy when life gets hard.

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- HAPPY MAY
- J =KADA=F ; =Ñ ?] ll f _ 'ZY[c'nh'o`] f 'kge] l' f _ _] l k'qgm \ go f
 - All month long, we will be focusing on the message of J =KADA=F ; =
 - For HOSTS and COMMUNICATORS, please be ready to share your own stories of J =KADA=F ; = while
- K=J N= ` < 9Q` was yesterday
 - Recap `Nà`
- SUMMER CAMPS - Still time to sign up
- LAUNCH happens NEXT WEEK May 22... so we'll say goodbye to 6th grade and hello to a new group of 4th graders

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 WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - Never Gonna Stop Singing
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

HOST

- Host
- 48" Ball – Cage Ball or Beach Ball

STORY

- Communicator
- Bible



WEEK
THREE
MAY 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

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 KEY QUESTION

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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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 STUDENTS 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

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday (National Pizza Party Day, National Rescue Dog Day, World Bee Day, National Talk Like Yoda Day, World Turtle Day), etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "What's up, friends? Let's have a show of hands. How many of you love scary things? (Pause for response.) That's more than I was anticipating! I don't love scary things, but I'm not scared of many things. In fact, there are three things in life that scare me—expired milk, my phone battery unexpectedly dying, and getting run over by a massive beach ball! And you know what we do with scary things in [Name of Environment]? We face them head on!



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"Today I want us to face something scary! Any guesses on what fear we will be facing today? (Pause for response.) Nice try! Today, we will be playing a game called THE GIANT BALL OF DOOM!"

SLIDE: "THE GIANT BALL OF DOOM" TITLE

"To play this game, we will need everyone in this room to get into a circle in less than thirty seconds starting right now!"

OPTIONAL VIDEO: 30-SECOND COUNTDOWN

Host directs the large group to form a circle standing shoulder to shoulder facing the center of the circle.

"Well done. Now we need a few volunteers to stand in the center of the circle."

Host selects about 20% of the room to form small circle in the middle of the large circle, creating something that looks like a doughnut. The inner circle should be facing the outer circle. The distance between the two circles should be just wider than the width of the big ball.

"To play THE GIANT BALL OF DOOM, we need our inner and outer circles to work together to push this giant ball around the circle as fast as possible. Here are a couple of rules to keep everyone safe. No one should forcibly hit the ball, kick the ball, jump on the ball, or pick the ball up. Further, no one should change the direction of the ball unless I yell, "switch"! Everyone will push the ball in the same direction. Make sense? (Pause for response.) Great! Let's practice pushing the ball around the circle."

Host places the large ball between the two circles. Host instructs the circles to push the ball clockwise. Host allows the ball to make a couple of laps to get the group comfortable. Host yells "switch" at least once during the warmup to practice the change in direction.

"You guys make that look TOO easy! Well done! Now we are ready to play THE GIANT BALL OF DOOM. The final piece to this game is a brave individual who is exceptionally fast and feels they can out run this ball! However, if you step inside this ring and the ball hits you, you will be eliminated! If you can avoid the ball, you earn bragging rights as THE GIANT BALL OF DOOM CHAMPION. Any volunteers?"

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Host selects one volunteer to stand in the center of the two circles on the opposite side of the ball. Host directs the circles to start pushing the ball. Once a kid has been hit, a new kid or Small Group Leader should be given the chance. If a volunteer is hard to hit with the ball, change the direction of the ball. There should be very few (if any) volunteers who don't get hit.

SAFETY NOTE: *It is important no kids or volunteers kick, punch, throw or jump on the big ball! The ball will win every time!*

"That was both awesome AND terrifying! Anytime I am in the path of a massive ball it is an alarming experience. Thanks to all of our volunteers for playing THE GIANT BALL OF DOOM! But I'm not going to lie. I really thought there would be more champions than that! Regardless, great effort by the entire room! Everyone raise your right hand as high as you can reach and pat yourself on the back for a job well done. (Pause for response.)"



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, friends! One of the things I appreciate about this crowd at [Name of Environment] is the fact that you always come ready to have fun! I really enjoyed watching some of you play THE GIANT BALL OF DOOM! Watching some of you running away from a massive ball with the rest of the room working to chase you down was SO entertaining! Honestly, I love watching anybody compete in any sport—football, basketball, soccer, tennis, golf, and the list goes on. Each athlete trains constantly in order to compete at the highest level.

“Show of hands: How many of you play sports? *(Pause for response.)* Wow! Lots of you love to compete through sports. For most professional athletes, their training starts around your age or younger! The dreams of succeeding and winning championships begin early.

“When I watch professional athletes, I marvel at their talent and ability. Often, I don’t consider the obstacles they overcame to reach their skill levels. However, many survived homelessness, injuries, and other unthinkable challenges.

“There is one athlete I want to highlight really quickly who overcame a particularly difficult hurdle. In Hawaii, one of the popular sports is surfing. Many kids grow up dreaming about becoming professional surfers.

OPTIONAL SLIDE: BETHANY HAMILTON

“Bethany Hamilton started surfing at three years old and began surfing competitively around eight years old. When Bethany Hamilton was your age, she started surfing in competitions and was a natural talent. By ten years old, Bethany had gained her first sponsorship! However, everything changed when she was 13 years old. She was surfing with one of her best friends on the island of Kauai. While she was lying on her surfboard with her arm dangling in the water, a large tiger shark bit off her left arm near Bethany’s shoulder. She was rushed to the hospital where the medical staff was able to save her life!

“As crazy as life seemed at the time, Bethany was confident of two things. First, God loved her. And second, she was still supposed to be a professional surfer. Less than a month after the shark attack, Bethany competed in her next major competition. Bethany has won many major surfing competitions since her shark attack and inspired millions with her story.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Bethany’s surfing story could have ended at 13 years old on the island of Kauai, and nobody would have blamed her. She faced an incredibly difficult challenge. In order for Bethany to continue surfing, she would need to relearn how to surf without one of her arms to help her paddle to the waves or keep her balance. Bethany embraced this hardship with resilience to make the best of a terrible situation!

“Too many times in my life I stopped because of a hardship, and my hardship doesn’t compare to a shark attack! If I scraped my knee while running, I would hobble back inside and refuse to move! When the book I was reading included some big words, I’d swap it for something easier to read. If the guys playing pickup basketball looked too big, I would opt not to play! Maybe you’re like this sometimes, too. When you confront something difficult or you’re unsure what to do next, you just opt to walk away.



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"But is there a different way? We all know that we'll encounter hard things in life. But how can we make the best of a bad situation? How can we consciously make the decision to turn something terrible into something good? These are not easy-to-answer questions! Thankfully, when we face difficult questions, we can open the Bible to discover some answers that can help. Let's head there now."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Once again we head to the book of Acts, which was written by Luke, the same guy who wrote the book of Luke! Luke wrote Acts to continue telling Jesus' story and to follow the journey of Jesus' disciples as they continued the mission Jesus gave them. Some of those first followers of Jesus were two guys named Paul and Silas.

"Prior to knowing Jesus, Paul, who was also known as Saul, was a Pharisee who did everything in his power to prevent Christians from sharing Jesus' story with others. He was an enemy to anyone who followed Jesus. Paul would arrest and, in some cases do worse, anyone gathering or speaking in Jesus' name! But Paul's life completely changed when he met Jesus and believed that Jesus is the Son of God! Paul began to travel away from Jerusalem carrying the good news of Jesus with him. As he journeyed, Paul would start churches everywhere by bringing people together to teach them to follow Jesus. At times, Paul would be welcomed by the communities, and other times, Paul and his friends would be run out of town.

"The other guy, Silas, was one of the first Christians to take the message of Jesus outside of Jerusalem, where it all began. Silas risked his health and safety on dangerous journeys to share Jesus. Silas worked closely with Paul to help groups of people come together and learn how to follow Jesus and create churches where others could know Jesus, too.

"On one trip, Paul and Silas were together working to start new churches and encourage some other churches Paul had already started. One night God sent Paul a dream telling him to go to the region of Macedonia. So the next day Paul and Silas set sail for the area and traveled to the city of Philippi. They met a woman named Lydia, who started following Jesus after Paul and his friends shared the message of Jesus with her!

"Around this time, a servant girl started following them around and shouting at them. It turned out that she was being controlled by an evil spirit. So Paul turned to her and spoke to the spirit."

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

"In the name of Jesus Christ," he said, "I command you to come out of her!"

"Immediately, the spirit left her. I'm curious to know if you can guess what happened next in the story."

Communicator reads the three choices. Give the audience a chance to guess by raising their hands or cheering for the answer they believe to be correct.

SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENED NEXT #1

"Great guesses. The correct answer is B. It would be an awesome story if the crowd celebrated the fact the servant girl was free of the evil spirit and even BETTER if she committed her life to Jesus. Regardless, neither of those are mentioned to have happened. Instead, the servant girl's master had been using the possessed girl to make money for him. Now it wasn't possible because the evil spirit was gone, and he blamed Paul and Silas.



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"Anybody know what happened next? Let's see if you can guess."

Communicator reads the three choices. Communicator gives the audience the chance to guess.

SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENED NEXT #2

"This was a trick question. The correct answer is all three. Paul and Silas were seized and taken to the authorities where they were beaten, tossed into a cell of the prison, and had their feet chained. For these men, this was a tough situation, even though they had done nothing wrong!

"I'm curious to know if anyone knows what Paul and Silas did in response to this imprisonment. Let's gets some choices on the screens."

Communicator reads the three choices. Communicator gives the audience the chance to guess.

SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENED NEXT #3

"This is crazy, but the correct answer is C! Luke tells us this in Acts 16."

Open Bible to Acts 16:25a (NIV) and read.

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying. They were also singing hymns to God.

Scripture doesn't mention any crying or lamenting. Paul and Silas took the opportunity to praise God while shackled in the prison cell! Once again, this story took an interesting turn.

"Let's see if you can guess what happened next."

Communicator reads the three choices. Communicator gives the audience the chance to guess.

SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENED NEXT #4

"The correct answer is B! A violent earthquake shook the prison so hard it caused all the prison doors to fly open, and everybody's chains to come loose! The jailer who was hired to make sure nobody escaped saw the doors open and assumed all the prisoners had fled. If the jailer's prisoners escaped, his life was over! So he took out his sword to harm himself. But again, something unexpected happened.

"Look up at the screen to see if you can correctly surmise what happened next."

Communicator reads the three choices. Communicator gives the audience the chance to guess.

SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENED NEXT #5

"The correct answer is B! Even though every single prisoner could have bolted for freedom, nobody left! In fact, Paul called out to the prison guard before the guard harmed himself and said,



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

“Don’t harm yourself!” Paul shouted. “We are all here!” The guard rushed in with some lights to confirm all prisoners were still there.

“See if you can guess the next turn in the story!”

Communicator reads the three choices. Communicator gives the audience the chance to guess.

SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENED NEXT #6

“Great guesses. Once again, this was a trick question. All three answers happened! When the guard realized no one escaped, he wanted to know what he needed to do to be saved! This is what happened next:

Open the Bible to Acts 16:31-34 (NIRV) and read.

“They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved.” They spoke the word of the Lord to him. They also spoke to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night, the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Right away he and everyone who lived with him were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house. He set a meal in front of them. He and everyone who lived with him were filled with joy. They had become believers in God.”

“Paul and Silas led the jailer and his entire family to know Jesus and baptized them!

“In the morning, the judges instructed the jailer to release Paul and Silas. Paul did not want to walk away from the jail quietly. He told the judges that he and Silas were Roman citizens. Because of that, it was illegal to whip them, and they were entitled to a fair trial, which they had not received. When the judges heard this, they were afraid. They came and apologized to Paul and Silas before asking them to leave.

“After a quick stop to Lydia’s home to encourage all the believers, they left knowing God would be with them, whatever they faced next.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: *“This story is full of difficult situations with ample opportunity for Paul and Silas to let bitterness be sown in their hearts. Both were beaten and arrested even though they didn’t commit a crime. If I was thrown into prison and I didn’t commit any crime, I would be angry. And sad. Possibly mad at God! Paul and Silas did none of that! Rather, they praised God despite their hard circumstances. When the earthquake caused the jail cells to open, Paul and Silas did not escape. Instead, they used it as an opportunity to lead the jailer and his entire family to Christ! This story a powerful example of what can happen when we chose joy as we keep on going.*

“Hard stuff will happen. All of us will experience it at some point. Some will lose cherished family pets suddenly. We can lose friendships. We may lose the championship by a close score. Nobody in this room can prevent hard times from happening, but we can control how we respond to those hard situations.

“Here’s a question for you. When life gets hard, how do you react? When you’re grounded from using your cellphone or you must clean up the yard after the dog, do you get angry? Sad? Do you pout? I doubt any of us



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will be stuck in a first-century Roman prison, but Paul and Silas were! The prisoners and the jailer never noticed the two men throwing a temper tantrum! Not even close. You know what they did witness? Paul and Silas focused on what was good by choosing to praise God instead of what was bad. They chose joy, and that's exactly what we should do!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "For many of us, choosing joy in all situations won't be easy. But it is possible, especially when choose to ask God for help. After all, we can trust God no matter what! It will help you face any GIANT BALL OF DOOM regardless of its size! Today, as you head to small groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What helps you keep going? When life seems to be falling apart and nothing is going your way, how can you stay focused on the good? If you're not sure how to answer that, have no fear. You'll get a chance to chat all about this and more with your Small Group. Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us find joy when life feels difficult. Let's pray."

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP