



WEEK
TWO
JULY 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Joyful Noise
Paul and Silas Are
Thrown into Prison
Acts 16:16-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you find joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's grace has saved you
because of your faith in Christ.
Your salvation doesn't come from
anything you do. It is God's gift."
Ephesians 2:8, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Faith—Trusting in what
you can't see because of
what you can see

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Ready, Set, Move!" from *Ready, Set, Move!*,
and "Movin' Me" from *Ready, Set, Move!*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Joy-FULL (*k-1st grade*), Focus (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Application Activity: Troubles (*k-1st grade*), Capture the Joy (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Memory Verse Activity: Think about God (*k-1st grade*), Chained Up (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Joyful Noise
Paul and Silas Are
Thrown into Prison
Acts 16:16-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you find joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God's grace has saved you
because of your faith in Christ.
Your salvation doesn't come from
anything you do. It is God's gift."**
Ephesians 2:8, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Faith—Trusting in what
you can't see because of
what you can see**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Acts 16:17
- Acts 16:18
- Acts 16:28
- Acts 16:31
- Acts 16:37

HOST SUPPLIES

- Worship Leaders
- Three Small Group Leaders
- Ping pong ball
- Fun and creative props that the Worship Leaders can use to distract the kids such as crazy costumes, noisemakers, spray/misting water bottles, etc.
- Bible

STORY SUPPLIES

- Host
- Female Small Group Leader
- Kid actors to play Paul, Silas, and Lydia
- Bible
- Robes for the kids playing Paul and Silas, wig for Lydia
- Two rafting or canoe paddles
- Roman soldier helmet for the Host
- Length of chain (several feet)
- Two bandages that you can wrap around the kids' arms

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:

AUDIO:



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hello, friends! I'm here. You're here. And it's a great day at [your environment's name]. We're MOVING quickly through the summer as we find out how we can have faith.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Faith is trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"We can't always see what's ahead in life, but we know we can trust Jesus every step of the way. We know that Jesus came to be our Savior, and He showed us the very best way to live. We can put our faith in Jesus and follow Him here, there, and everywhere.

"I know you're excited to SEE what kind of super-fun game we're playing today! First, I'll need three of our Small Group Leaders to come up here with me.

Bring up three Small Group Leaders. Hold up a ping pong ball.

"Does anyone know what this is? *(Pause for response.)* Right, it's a ping pong ball. *(Give it to one of the leaders.)* You can see that I've given it to [leader's name]. When the music starts, these three leaders will pass the ball back and forth to each other. They can do it any way they like, because their goal is to get all of you to lose track of where the ball is.

"When the music stops. They'll separate and stand with their hands behind their back—one on the left side of the stage, one on the right side of the stage, and one in the center. All of you will have to decide who you think has the ping pong ball and stand in front of that leader. Then we'll reveal the answer!

"If you can correctly guess which leader has the ball at the end, you'll move on to the next round. Are we ready to play? Let's go! Ready, set, move!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (FOR EACH ROUND)

AUDIO: CUT MUSIC ABRUPTLY WHEN IT'S TIME FOR THE KIDS TO GUESS



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10 MINUTES

For the first round of the game, just let the leaders pass the ball back and forth without any distractions. When the music stops, cue the kids to line up in front of the leader who they think has the ball. Then have the leaders open their hands to reveal who really has it.

For the first round, the kids will probably all pick the correct leader because of the lack of distractions, which is fine. For subsequent rounds, add in different silly distractions to try to get the kids to lose track of the ball's location. For example, Worship Leaders can pop out on the sides of the stage wearing costumes, juggling, singing, calling for the kids' attention, spraying the kids with water (mist), dancing in front of the leaders on stage, etc. You can also do things in the room like briefly turning off the lights.

Let the kids who guessed which leader had the ball move on to the next round. Encourage the kids who didn't guess correctly and cue them to cheer for their friends.

Try to make the game more and more difficult for each round, adding more and more silly distractions. The leaders on stage will probably also get better and better about hiding the ball as they pass it back and forth.

"THAT. WAS. EPIC! Way to go, everyone! Let's give our leaders a hand as they head back to their seats. And let's get our voices ready so we can sing and praise God together."

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:

AUDIO:



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PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! If you've been hanging out with us here at [your environment's name] over this past year, you know that we've been moving through God's Big Story in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*

If you're using a Bible timeline on your wall, you can reference it here as you recap.

"We've been spending time lately in the book of Acts, which is where we can find the story of the early church. In the book of Acts, we can read about one of the new believers named Paul. Paul traveled thousands of miles to tell people about Jesus, and he started many new churches. When Paul moved on to new places, he wrote letters to people he had met in those churches because he wanted to encourage them to keep following Jesus.

"Today, we'll pick up Paul's story when he was in a town called Troas. Who would like to play Paul up on stage?"

Bring up a kid who's raising his hand to play Paul. Give him a robe to wear.

"We've got some sound effects that will help, too. *(to the kid)* Paul, let's see you travel on your long journey to tell people about Jesus. You can just walk in place."

Cue "Paul" to walk in place.

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 1 (FOOTSTEPS)

PAUL AND FRIENDS IN PHILIPPI

STORYTELLER: "Nice job. *(to audience)* While Paul was in the town of Troas, God gave him a vision.

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 2 (DREAM SEQUENCE)

"In this vision, Paul saw a man from a place called Macedonia. The man begged Paul to come to Macedonia and help. So Paul and his friends Luke and Silas set sail.

Give the paddle to "Paul."

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 3 (WAVES)

"Actually, let me get someone else to come up and play Silas.

Bring up a kid who's raising his hand to play Silas. Give him a robe to wear and another paddle.

"I'll play the part of Luke. *(to the two boys)* Let's set sail, friends!

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 3 (WAVES)



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25 MINUTES

Stand next to "Paul" and "Silas" and scan the horizon with your hand over your eyes like a visor.

(to audience) "In a few days, they reached Philippi, which was a town in Macedonia.

"Land ho!

Jump in place like you're jumping from a boat onto dry land. Then look at "Paul" and "Silas" and cue them to do the same thing. Cue them to set down their paddles.

"There was no synagogue or religious building in Philippi. Paul and his friends went down to the riverside in order to find a place to pray.

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 4 (RIVER)

Bow your head and fold your hands. Cue "Paul" and "Silas" to do the same thing.

"When they got to the river, they found a woman named Lydia who was down by the river with several of her friends.

(looking around) "Let's see. Lydia. Who wants to play Lydia?"

Find a girl with her hand raised, and have her stand up.

"Paul and his friends told Lydia about Jesus, and Lydia believed!

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 5 (ANGELIC "AHHH")

"Lydia welcomed Paul and his friends into her home, and a brand-new church started there. (to the kid actors) Paul, Silas, Lydia, let's all jump for joy!

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (FANFARE)

Jump in the air.

(to Lydia) "Thanks for your help, Lydia! You can have a seat."

THROWN IN PRISON

STORYTELLER: "One day, as Paul and his friends walked to the place where they prayed each day, a woman began to follow them, shouting loudly.

"Let's see. [Leader's name], would you play the woman who followed Paul and his friends?"

Motion to an adult leader and have her stand up.

"The woman shouted . . .

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



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25 MINUTES

"These men serve the Most High God."

Cue the leader to repeat after you.

LEADER (AS THE WOMAN): *"These men serve the Most High God."*

STORYTELLER: *"They are telling you how to be saved."*

LEADER (AS THE WOMAN): *"They are telling you how to be saved."*

STORYTELLER: *"This woman was telling the truth, but she was controlled by a spirit that was not from God. Because of this spirit, the woman was able to tell people about things that were going to happen in the future. There were some men who were like her bosses, and they made lots of money because she was able to do this.*

"The woman kept shouting.

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

"These men serve the Most High God."

Cue the leader to repeat after you.

LEADER (AS THE WOMAN): *"These men serve the Most High God."*

STORYTELLER: *"They are telling you how to be saved."*

LEADER (AS THE WOMAN): *"They are telling you how to be saved."*

STORYTELLER: *"This bothered Paul, and he got upset. Listen to what happened next.*

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

"Turning around, he spoke to the spirit that was in her. 'In the name of Jesus Christ,' he said, 'I command you to come out of her!' At that very moment the spirit left the woman.

(to the kid actors) "Wow! Paul and Silas, let's jump for joy again! Ready? One, two, three!"

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (FANFARE)

Jump in the air. Then motion to the leader to have a seat.

"The woman was healed! But not everyone was happy about that. The woman's bosses were angry, because she could no longer make money for them. They dragged Paul and Silas through the streets to the marketplace to stand before the authorities. The judges ordered that Paul and Silas be thrown in prison.

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 7 (DRAMA BUTTON)



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25 MINUTES

Motion for Paul and Silas to go back on stage. Host enters, wearing a Roman soldier helmet and carrying a length of chain.

“The jailer was given orders to guard Paul and Silas carefully, so he put them deep inside the prison and put chains on their feet.”

Host drapes the chain loosely around the boys’ feet then stands on the side of the stage with his arms folded.

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 8 (HEAVY DOOR CLOSING)—PLAY AFTER THE HOST MOVES TO THE SIDE

THE EARTHQUAKE

STORYTELLER: “But Paul and Silas didn’t lose their faith in God. They knew they could **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what.** Right there in that prison, they prayed and sang to God!”

AUDIO: CHORUS OF ONE OF THE WORSHIP SONGS YOU SANG EARLIER (SUGGESTION: “MOVIN’ ME,” FROM 0:46 TO 1:04)

As the song plays, mouth the words.

“Suddenly, the ground started to shake. The prison doors flew open! Everyone’s chains came loose! It was an earthquake!”

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 9 (EARTHQUAKE)

As the sound plays, remove the chain from Paul and Silas’ feet.

“The jailer woke up!

Host jumps to attention.

“He saw that the prison doors were open, and he was very upset because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul called out . . .

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

“Don’t harm yourself! . . . We are all here!”

“The jailer was amazed that the prisoners hadn’t all run away as soon as they could have. He asked Paul and Silas what he should do to be saved. They told him . . .

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

“Believe in the Lord Jesus.”

Nod to Paul and Silas to cue them to repeat after you.



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25 MINUTES

KIDS (AS PAUL AND SILAS): "Believe in the Lord Jesus."

STORYTELLER: "Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved."

"Paul and Silas shared the good news about Jesus with the jailer and his whole family. The jailer cared for Paul and Silas's wounds.

Host wraps a bandage around Paul's arm, then another one around Silas' arm.

"The jailer and everyone who lived with him put their faith in Jesus and were baptized!"

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (FANFARE)

(to the actors) "Let me see you all shout WOO-HOO!" (Jump in the air.)

ACTORS: "WOO-HOO!"

AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (FANFARE)

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "In the morning, the authorities sent word to release Paul and Silas. But Paul spoke up. (to Paul) Point up high, Paul.

"He said . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 16:37 (NIRV) and read.

"We weren't given a trial. And we are Roman citizens! They threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and personally lead us out.

"The authorities released Paul and Silas and asked them to leave the city. But Paul and Silas took their time and visited the other believers at Lydia's house first, to encourage them. THEN they went on their way.

"Let's give our actors a hand as they head back to their seats. What an amazing performance!"

Collect the props and dismiss Paul and Silas to their seats. Host bows and exits.

"It's pretty amazing to think about how much faith Paul and Silas had in God. Even when they had been thrown in prison, they didn't worry or get angry about their situation. Instead, they had JOY. They prayed and sang to God. They believed that God was with them.

"You see . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"God can help you find joy!"



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HOME

25 MINUTES

“Let’s pray and thank God for that.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for this amazing story about Paul and Silas. You helped them find joy when they were in a really bad situation. Help us remember that we can find joy when we put our faith in You. Thank You for reminding us today that **[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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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters with a Bible (no longer wearing the helmet) as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “Imagine what it was like for Paul and Silas to be thrown in prison. They could have been focused on what was going wrong. But instead, they chose to trust God. And God helped them find joy!”

SLIDE: GOD’S BIG STORY TIMELINE

SLIDE: WEEK 2 TIMELINE IMAGE

If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.

“It’s important that we remember to put our faith in God, when things in our lives are going great . . . or even if they’re not. Our joy doesn’t come from the things that happen to us. Our joy comes from knowing that God loves us and is always with us.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“God can help you find joy!”

“When Jesus lived here on Earth, He reminded his friends of something really important. He said . . .

Open the Bible to John 16:33 (NirV) and read.

“In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.”

“If you talk to anyone who has been following Jesus for a long time, they can tell you story after story of times when God helped them find joy—even when things weren’t going their way. I can remember when . . .

Share a brief personal story of a time when things were hard for you but you were able to find joy because of your faith in God.

“When things are difficult, don’t be discouraged! You can always pray and ask God for help. That doesn’t mean that your situation will always change, but it WILL help you remember that God is always with you, no matter what.

“Let’s head to Small Group and talk about how God can give us joy!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP