



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Walking on Sunshine
Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you choose joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSzi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Check out our Small Group Leader Conversation Guides to guide you through salvation conversations: <https://bit.ly/4daxSUG>

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

Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: They Chose Joy
Application Activity: Get Back Up
Memory Verse Activity: God Can Help
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before the kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time when God filled your heart with joy despite a challenge you were facing. Thank God for joy! Ask God to help you trust God no matter what, and believe that God promised to make everything right in the end for those who follow Jesus. Ask God to help the kids in your group to learn to choose joy because God is with them, no matter what they face.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Walking on Sunshine
Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, and "Hum that Tune" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet every kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Set the cards from the "Hum that Tune" Activity Page face down in the middle of the circle.
- Invite a kid to pick a card from the "Hum that Tune" Activity Page and read it silently, so the rest of the group doesn't know what the song is.
 - Be prepared to quietly help with reading as needed, and point out the image if it is helpful.
 - If a kid isn't sure what a song is, share it with them quietly.
- Instruct the kid who drew the card to hum the song on the card to the rest of the group.
- Encourage the rest of the group to guess the song that's being hummed.
- Continue the game by giving each kid a chance to pick a card.
- If time and interest allow, come up with other songs for kids to hum.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Challenge the kids not to laugh as they play the following game.
- Instruct one kid in the circle to say, "ha."
- Direct the kid to their right in the circle to say, "hee."
- Instruct the next kid in the circle to say, "ho."
- Continue this pattern around the circle twice.
- When kids recite "ha," "hee", and "ho" smoothly, add a challenge by guiding them to say each sound twice, like this:
 - The first kid says "ha, ha," the kid to their right says "hee, hee," and the next kid says "ho, ho."
- Play additional rounds and add more challenge and fun by increasing the number of times kids say the sounds.
- As you play additional rounds, encourage the kids to "pass" the words faster or in different voices: high, low, mouse, robot, etc.
- Play as long as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was SO FUN! Watching you play filled me with JOY. *[Transition]* In today's Bible Story, we'll hear about two men who found a way to choose joy even in a tough situation. Let's go learn more!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



1. THEY CHOSE JOY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Acts 16, and a variety of stuffed animals

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids together in your group space.
- Open the marked Bible to Acts 16.
- Share the following points to recap the Bible Story:
 - One day, as Paul and his friends walked to where they prayed, a woman began to follow them, shouting: *“These men serve the Most High God. They are telling you how to be saved”* (Acts 16:17, NIV).
 - After several days, Paul said, *“In the name of Jesus . . . I command you to come out of her”* (Acts 16:18, NIV). Right away the bad spirit left her.
 - But the men using her to make money were angry and took Paul and Silas to the judges. The judges ordered that Paul and Silas should be beaten and thrown into prison.
 - Paul and Silas were locked in a prison cell and chained by their feet!
 - Even though Paul and Silas had every reason to be angry and lose hope, they chose to think about Jesus.
 - They prayed and sang to God, and the other prisoners listened.
 - Suddenly there was a powerful earthquake, the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains fell off!
 - When the jailer woke up and saw that the doors were open, he thought the prisoners had escaped.
 - But Paul said, *“Don’t harm yourself! . . . We are all here!”* (Acts 16:28, NIV). The jailer was amazed and said, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* (Acts 16:30, NIV).
 - Paul and Silas shared the good news about Jesus with the jailer and his whole family! And the jailer and his whole family came to be followers of Jesus!
- Help kids get into groups of three or four.
- Give each group four to six stuffed animals.
- Encourage kids to use the stuffed animals to reenact the story.
 - If the kids are stumped, prompt them with the idea that one stuffed animal can be Paul, one Silas, one Lydia, and one the jailer.
 - If it’s better for your group, narrate the action while the kids dramatize it.
- Invite each group to use different areas of the environment for “the river,” “the marketplace,” and the “jail,” moving from place to place as they reenact the story.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Walking on Sunshine
Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Paul and Silas were SO FULL of joy that they prayed and sang to God—even though they were chained and in jail! And because of what Paul and Silas did, the jailer and his whole family believed in Jesus!



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. THEY CHOSE JOY, CONTINUED)

“God helped Paul and Silas choose joy, and **God can help you choose joy** too. So what is joy? Joy is choosing to look to God and trust God no matter what.

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time God helped you choose joy— maybe someone you love was sick, or you lost something really important to you.)

“God can help you choose joy when your family can’t go on that trip you wanted to go on, when things are hard at school, or when someone you love is sick.

“God won’t always take away your difficult things, but God can ALWAYS help you choose joy! So when life gets hard, think about God. God promises to make everything right in the end for those who follow Jesus. Stay focused on Jesus and how much He loves you! **God can help you choose joy.**”



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



*** 2. GET BACK UP**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic eggs, Play-Doh®, and stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids together in your group space.
- Remind kids that Paul and Silas trusted God no matter

what! Because they trusted God, they could choose joy even when life was hard!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Walking on Sunshine

Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

- Set out the plastic eggs.
- Invite each kid to pick a plastic egg.
- Explain that resilience is getting back up when something gets you down. Paul and Silas had resilience!
- Set an egg on its base, then tip it over.
- Ask: "What do these eggs need to help them 'stand up'?"
 - Encourage ideas by saying, "Good thinking!" or "Tell me more."
- Tell kids the eggs need something outside of them to hold them, or something INSIDE to help them get back up!
- Ask: "What will happen if we put something heavier than the eggs inside them?"
- Give each kid a lump of Play-Doh®.
- Invite kids to compare the weight (or heaviness) of the dough to the weight of the egg.
- Instruct kids to open their eggs.
- Ask kids this question:
 - If we want the eggs to stand up, where should we put the dough? (*On the inside of the egg on the bottom.*)
- Guide kids to press the dough into the bases of their eggs.
- Encourage trial and error.
- If the egg doesn't stand upright, ask open-ended questions to help the kids find solutions, like:
 - Why do you think the egg keeps falling over?
 - What do you think we could try to get the egg to stand upright?
- Share with kids the science behind the egg standing up.
 - Simpler explanation: The Play-Doh® is heavier than the egg. Since the heavy part is being pulled by gravity, when you push the egg, it always tries to stand back up.
 - Deeper explanation: When you add weight to the bottom half of the inside of the egg, the base has a much higher density than the top. This makes the center of mass very low. When you push the egg, the center of mass is on the other side of the pivot point (where the egg is touching the ground). Gravity pulls the egg back to its original position.
- Invite kids to use stickers to decorate their eggs as they choose.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you choose joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"On our own, it's hard to get back up when life gets us down. (*Take an empty egg, set it on its base, and tip it over.*) But when we follow Jesus, we can have joy no matter what! God's Spirit lives with us and can help us choose joy!



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SMALL GROUP

K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 2. GET BACK UP, CONTINUED)

"Also, think about how God promises us everything will be made right in the end. So when your sibling upsets you (*push the egg and wait for it to rebalance*), when someone you love is sick (*push the egg again*), when you feel lonely (*push the egg*), when you feel scared (*push the egg*), or when life feels hard or confusing (*push the egg*), remember, **God can help you choose joy!**"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



3. GOD CAN HELP

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles marked at Psalm 31, and "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage kids to sit in a circle.
- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up this month's Memory Verse, Psalm 31:24 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Psalm at the top of the page as you say "Psalm" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 31 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 31 for the little 24; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*

***Finding verses with 1st graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under "Old Testament." You can help by telling them that Psalms starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 31. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 24 in chapter 31.*

- Collect the Bibles.
- Demonstrate the motions for the Memory Verse using the "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Pages as a guide.
- Lead kids to say and sign the verse with you.
- Explain that you will play "pass" the verse.
- Guide one kid to begin the verse by saying the first phrase and making the first motion.
- Then, prompt the next kid in the circle to say the next phrase of the Memory Verse and do the corresponding motion.
- Continue around the circle, repeating the verse several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Friends, it's not always going to be easy to choose joy. Some things will make us angry, but even when it's hard to choose joy, it's so worth it! It's all about choosing to look to God and trust God no matter what. God has promised to be with us all of the time, and also to make everything right in the end for those who follow Jesus, and that's good news! So remember, **God can help you choose joy!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Walking on Sunshine
Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you choose joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NlrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Device for playing music, and a familiar worship song

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to gather together in a circle.
- Remind kids that it's okay to be sad, or mad, or scared, or even confused. We all have those feelings sometimes.
- Explain to kids that God doesn't want us to be stuck in those emotions. We can talk to God about how we feel and God can help us choose joy.
- Play the pre-selected worship song.
- Invite kids to sing along to the pre-selected worship song.
- Let kids know that when we listen to worship music, it helps us look to God and trust God—just like Paul and Silas trusted God to give them joy.
- Close the group time in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Walking on Sunshine
Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You that You are always with us and for promising to make everything right in the end when we follow Jesus! Our troubles might not go away right now, but I'm so grateful You still help us choose joy. Please help us to turn to You when something hard happens. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you choose joy.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their egg from the Get Back Up Activity and share this week's Bottom Line: **God can help you choose joy.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Print "Hum that Tune" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. THEY CHOSE JOY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Acts 16, one for each Small Group
- Variety of stuffed animals, five or six for every three to four kids

* 2. GET BACK UP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic eggs (jumbo or regular), one for each kid
- Play-Doh®, one lump for each kid
- Small stickers, five to ten for each kid

3. GOD CAN HELP

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles marked at Psalm 31 (for kindergartners), one for each kid
- Print "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Page, one set for each Small Group

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Device for playing music
- Familiar worship song
- Before group time:
 - Pre-select a worship song that's familiar to your group.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**