

City LG - May 11-12, 2019

Bible Story: I Won't Back Down (Paul and Silas in Prison) • Acts 16:16-40

Bottom Line: You can choose joy when life gets hard.

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 (NirV)

CG: 2-Minute Countdown

WORSHIP: "We Are Royals" and "Every Beat"

(Worship Leader Prays)

WELCOME:

Supplies Needed: Action Figures (2 per Campus) and See Thru Bin (1 per campus)

"Hey, everybody! My name is [your name] and I'm excited to tell you about something really cool that happened *(use your best deep voice to sound like a movie announcer)* a long, long time ago . . . in a galaxy far, far away.

(Back to regular voice) "Just kidding. Our story today isn't really from a galaxy far away, but it did happen a long time ago in a city named Philippi. Philippi was a busy city where lots of people from different countries came to buy, sell, and trade things in the marketplace.

"One of the important people in our story was a guy named Paul.

Hold up the action figure representing Paul. Make him fly through the air.

"Okay. Paul wasn't actually a superhero. And he didn't fly. But he did spend his life traveling around to different cities, telling people how much God loved them and how they could follow Jesus. At one point, Paul had a vision—or a dream. In this vision, a man was begging Paul to come to Macedonia. The man wanted Paul and his friend, Silas ***(hold up action figure representing Silas)*** to come and tell the people of Macedonia about Jesus. Paul and Silas decided to go, and they were so glad they did. They started sharing the story of Jesus, and people began to believe! One of the new believers was a woman named Lydia. She offered them a place to stay."

"One day, while Paul and Silas were walking around the city teaching about Jesus, a servant girl began to follow them around. She would cry out and interrupt what they were trying to do. "This woman was controlled by a spirit that didn't come from God. The men she worked for used it to make money. Paul and Silas tried to ignore her at first, but she followed them everywhere. Finally, Paul commanded the spirit to leave her, and it did. She was free! But the girl's bosses weren't happy. They dragged Paul and Silas to face the city judges. The judges ordered Paul and Silas to be whipped and put in jail."

Put the bin upside down over the Paul and Silas action figures.

“While they were in prison, Paul and Silas did something that most people would think is very strange. They didn’t play cards. They didn’t whine and complain. Wait for it . . . they SANG SONGS!”

CG: “Hallelujah” Chorus Sound Effect

“For real! Paul and Silas were singing and praying to God while the other prisoners listened. Suddenly, the earth began to shake (*shake the upside-down bin*). Doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose!

Take the bin off and set it aside.

“The jailer knew he would be in so much trouble if all the prisoners escaped. But listen to what happened next.

Open the Bible to Acts 16:28-31 (NIV) and read.

“Don’t harm yourself!” Paul shouted. “We are all here!” The jailer called out for some lights. He rushed in, shaking with fear. He fell down in front of Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out. He asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved.”

Let’s stop right there for now, and let our Bible Story video continue the story. Watch this!

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 7:00)

“I think it’s amazing that Paul and Silas were sitting in PRISON singing songs about God and praying! Do you know why they were able to do that? Let me tell you why! Because God gave them joy, even in a bad situation.”

“Sometimes things happen to us that are tough. Things happen that we don’t understand. But even in those times, you can **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. You can do what Paul and Silas did.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “You can choose joy when life gets hard.

“Let’s all say that together.”

KIDS: [Bottom Line] “You can choose joy when life gets hard!”

“That’s right! Let’s pray.”

Pray: “God, thank You so much for helping Paul and Silas choose joy even when things seemed terrible. Please help us to learn to do that, too. We know that You’re always with us and that Your love can give us joy even when life gets hard. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“Paul and Silas were able to choose joy even though they were in JAIL! And because they were able to do that, lots of other people decided to follow God! We can choose joy, too. Joy comes when you put your trust in God. Tough things might happen in life—like if you’re having a tough time making friends, or you’re not getting along with your brother or sister. In those times, try focusing on the good things you know are true—like how God loves you and He sent Jesus to save you. You can find joy in those things.

“If you do, others will notice. They’ll wonder where your joy comes from. And then you can tell them it comes from putting your trust in God. So, whatever happens this week, remember to choose joy! Before we head to Small Group, let’s spend some time worshipping God with our offering!”

Offering Time:

“Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called ‘Missions of Hope’ to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them.”

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

“(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya and is part of a really great place called Mission of Hope International! Here’s a picture of Missions of Hope!”

CG: Missions of Hope JPEG

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! (*show offering container*).”

CG: Offering Video Music Video (Runtime: 2:45)

Dismiss to Small Group