

# Alley SG—May 15th, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** Sing, Sing, Sing (Paul and Silas in Prison) • Acts 16:16-40

**Today's Key Question:** What helps you keep going?

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can choose joy when life gets hard.

**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 (NIRV)

## 1. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, "Song Sheet" Pages (1 per kid), markers

**What You Do:** Give each kid a Bible.

- Look up Acts 16:25 and read it together.
- Despite being thrown in jail, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God.
- Remind kids that a hymn is a song or poem praising God.
  - The book of Psalms is a collection of songs and several of the songs praise God; Psalm 100 is one of these praise songs.
- Give each kid a "Song Sheet" Activity Page.
- Look up Psalm 100 and read it aloud. Encourage kids to refer to their "Song Sheet" to follow along.
- Lead kids in discussion of Psalm 100.
  - What does it mean to praise God?
  - What about this Psalm praises God? (*Encourage kids to use markers to circle phrases that praise God.*)
  - What truths about God does the psalmist sing about? (*Give kids time to underline truths about God in the Psalm. Encourage them to notice where praises and truths overlap.*)
  - If you were writing a song or poem, what truths about God would you write about?
  - Why can praising God help us to be resilient? Why can thanking God help us to be resilient?

## 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Blank Colored Paper (16 pieces per Group, per Service), pens, Baskets (2 per Group), Bibles, timer/mobile device

**What You Do:** Look up Acts 16:16-40 and read it together.

- *Tip: You can split up portions of the text with multiple kids to keep them engaged.*
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team eight pieces of colored paper.
- Instruct teams to write a fact from the story on each piece of paper. Direct them to Acts 16:16-40 if they need help remembering some details.
- When everyone is finished, let teams read their facts to the rest of the group.
- Tell teams to crumple up their pieces of paper into paper balls and to put their set of balls in a Laundry Basket, then teams exchange baskets.
- Explain the game:

- Teams select one kid to be the “Shaker.”
- The “Shaker” will mix up the paper balls in their laundry basket.
- When you say go, the “Shaker” will then dump out all the paper balls in front of their teammates.
- As the paper balls fall, teams put the balls in the order of the story.
- When time is up, teams get two points for each paper ball in the correct order of the story.
- The team with the most points wins.
- As time allows, let other kids be the shaker and repeat the activity.
- Gather kids together.
- Ask:
  - Paul and Silas couldn’t have been happy about being in jail, and yet they could sing and praise God. Why? *(This is an opportunity to guide conversation about the difference between joy and happiness. Joy depends on Jesus and Who He is and what He has done for us. Being happy depends on circumstances.)*
  - Paul and Silas didn’t have a choice to be in prison. There was a lot they didn’t get to choose. What about Paul and Silas’ situation was hard? How were Paul and Silas able to be resilient even in hard circumstances? *(Paul and Silas could choose what they focused on; they could choose to trust God no matter what.)*
  - How can what we choose to focus on help us to be resilient?

### 3. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Emoji Plates (1 Set of Paper Plates with Emojis per Group)

**What You Do:**

- Gather kids together.
- Scatter several Emoji plates near the group.
- Read one of the scenarios below.
- Tell kids to select the plate best describing how the situation would make them feel.
- Allow kids to share why they selected the plate.
- Potential scenarios are listed below. If interest, allow kids to come up with scenarios for the activity.
  - You got in trouble
  - Your family just got a new pet alligator
  - You got a great grade on your science homework
  - You are sick
  - An alien spaceship landed in your backyard
  - You miss your friend who moved to another city
  - You were selected to sing a solo in the choir concert
  - You don’t understand something at school
  - You had pizza for dinner
  - You must eat pizza every day for a year
- Ask:
  - A lot of times whether we are happy or sad depends on what is happening around us. Is it possible to have joy even when you aren’t happy about the situation you are in? Why or why not?
  - What helps you keep going? (As a group, make a quick list.)
  - How can your attitude help you keep going when things are hard?

#### 4. Discussion Questions

- How does trusting God help us to bounce back?
- What truths can you focus on to help you get back up when something gets you down?
- What does it look like to choose joy even when you are not happy about the circumstances you are in?
- ***[Make it Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a situation that was hard and you weren't happy about it but you decided to choose joy. What did you focus on and how did it help you to keep going?)***

#### 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

##### What You Say:

“God, You are with us always. Your Spirit gives us the power we need to keep going even when it is hard. God, help us to be like Paul and Silas and to focus on You, especially when we aren't sure how things will turn out. Help us to remember Your promise that no matter what, when we believe and receive Jesus as our Savior, we can be with You now and forever. In Jesus, we are never alone. Amen.”