

# City SG—May 15th, 2022

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

**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. Bible Story Memory Match

**What You Need:** "Paul and Silas Memory Match Cards" cards (2 sets per Group)

*NOTE: If you have more than six kids, consider dividing into two groups and providing two sets of cards.*

### What You Do:

- Shuffle the "Paul and Silas Memory Match Cards" and lay the cards face down in a grid pattern.
- Guide the kids to play a memory game.
- On their turn, kids will turn over two cards to try to find a match.
- If successful, they set the matches aside, and it's the next kid's turn.
- If they turn over two cards that do not match, have them return the two cards to their original spots face down in the grid. Play then moves to the next kid.
- Repeat until all matches are found. Then, hold up each picture and review the Bible story.
  - Paul and Silas picture: Paul and Silas loved Jesus and loved telling others about Him. They were traveling together when they met a woman controlled by a spirit. Paul commanded the spirit to come out, and the woman was healed. (Acts 16:16-18)
  - Shackles: The men who had been using the woman to make money for them were angry. They grabbed Paul and Silas and claimed they'd been making trouble. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown in jail. (Acts 16:19-24)
  - Musical notes: Paul and Silas were thrown into the deepest part of the jail and chained at their feet so they couldn't escape. They had NO idea what would happen to them. But instead of complaining, they chose to pray and sing worship songs to God. The other prisoners heard them singing and praying. (Acts 16:25)
  - Prison doors open: Suddenly, an earthquake shook the prison, the doors flew open, and their chains were loosened. (Acts 16:26)
  - Jailer: The jailer thought the prisoners had escaped and that he would get in big trouble. But Paul shouted, "We are all here!" (Acts 16:27-28)
  - Question mark: When the jailer realized they WERE still there, he asked a very important question. He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas told him about Jesus. He and his family believed and were baptized. (Acts 16:29-34)

### What You Say:

"Paul and Silas were thrown in prison for following Jesus. They'd done nothing wrong, and still they were punished. But instead of getting angry or upset, they chose to praise God. They made a choice to look for the good. When life gets hard, you can focus on the hard stuff, the bad stuff, or you can choose to look for the good. Remember, God loves you and is always on your side.

God can help you choose joy, no matter what's happening around you. Just like Paul and Silas, with God's help **[Bottom Line] you can choose joy when life gets hard.**"

**[Make it Personal] (Tell kids about a time you faced something hard as a kid but looking back, you can see the good in that situation. Even if you didn't back then, talk to the kids about how you could find the joy, even in that tough situation. Choose an age-appropriate example.)**

## 2. Memory Verse Ball Toss

**What You Need:** Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31 and a playground ball (1 per Group)

### What You Do:

- Let a volunteer open the marked Bible to Isaiah 40:31. Say the verse together a few times to review.
- Guide the kids to stand in a circle in your Small Group area.
- Toss the ball from kid to kid across the circle as you repeat the words of the verse, one word for each toss to another kid.
- If a kid drops the ball, the ball returns to you, and the group starts at the beginning of the verse.
- *NOTE: This is a fairly long verse for 1st-3rd Graders, so make sure you repeat the words of the verse along with the kids. Only stop play and return to the beginning of the verse if the ball drops, NOT if a kid forgets the next word. The more you repeat the verse together, the more likely they are to learn it by heart.*

### What You Say:

"Great job of keeping the ball in play! I LOVE this verse. It's such a great reminder that God is the one who gives us strength! With God's help, we can face anything. Remember, God made that soaring eagle, and God will help us bounce back and find joy, no matter what! When you rely on God, **[Bottom Line] you can choose joy when life gets hard.**"

## 3. Tic-Tac-Toe Tournament

**What You Need:** Paper, pens

### What You Do:

- Pair kids up and give them a piece of paper and pens to play Tic-Tac-Toe.
- Continue pairing kids and giving them paper and pens.
- Encourage pairs to play three games to declare a "best of three" winner.
- Once each pair finds a winner, put two winners against each other.
- Continue in the same way until you have a Tic-Tac-Toe champion!

### What You Say:

"How did it make you feel when you lost a round of Tic-Tac-Toe? It must have been tempting to quit when things weren't going your way in our game. God can help us to never give up, to show resilience, and to keep going when things get tough!"

#### 4. "Would You Rather?"

**What You Need:** Floor tape (1 roll per Group)

**What You Do:**

- Tape a line on the floor, about eight feet long, down the center of your Small Group space.
- Have the kids line up on the tape, one behind the other.
- Call out the following silly "Would You Rather" statements from the list below. For each choice, point to either side of the tape.
- Kids will jump to one side or the other to indicate their choice, then jump back to the center.

Would You Rather:

- Moo like a cow when you laugh or sound like a chicken when you scream
- Live in a house made of Jell-O® or have a car made of syrup and graham crackers
- Have ten fingers on each hand or ten toes on each foot
- Cuddle up with your favorite stuffed animal or favorite comfy blanket
- Have big ears and a tiny nose or a big nose and tiny ears
- Be able to run as fast as a cheetah or fly like a bird
- Be able to smell like a hound dog or have the eyesight of an eagle
- Eat only pizza for breakfast or only cereal for dinner
- Share your house with two lions or 1,000 honeybees
- Have it snow every day or rain every day
- Travel to outer space or to the center of the earth
- Stay up as late as you want or sleep in as late as you want

**What You Say:**

"In this game, you had to choose between two very silly choices! In our Bible story today, we heard about two guys who made a pretty amazing choice when things were hard. They chose to worship God! We can do the same thing with Jesus' help! Jesus can help up to show resilience when things get hard!"

#### 5. Pray and Dismiss

**What You Say:**

"God, we love You. There is no one greater than You. This week, when we face awesome stuff and hard stuff, will You remind us that through it all, You are WITH us? Help us to choose joy no matter what, just like Paul and Silas did. Thanks for always listening to our prayers, God. And thanks for sending Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with You. In His name we pray, amen."