

ALLEY SG July 8-10, 2023

Due to summer scheduling, these activities can be done in small groups or in one large group.

1. Roll the Dice Story Review

What You Need: Dice (2 per group)

What You Do:

- Have the kids take turns rolling both dice. (If you are in a big group, call a kid up to roll each round)
- Encourage them to answer the review question that corresponds with the number they rolled.
- If someone rolls a number already called, move onto someone else until all questions are answered.

Review Questions:

1. What city did Paul and his friends go to first in Macedonia? (*Philippi*)
2. Who was Lydia? (*a successful businesswoman*)
3. Why did Lydia offer to open her home to Paul and his friends? (*to host and start a church*)
4. What did Paul command the spirit to do in the name of Jesus? (*to come out of the woman*)
5. How were Paul and Silas treated by the crowd? (*They were arrested.*)
6. What is today's bottom line? (*God can help you find joy.*)
7. What did Paul and Silas do in prison? (*They prayed and praised God.*)
8. What happened that caused the door of the prison to fly open? (*an earthquake*)
9. How did God's power change the jailer's heart? (*He believed in Jesus.*)
10. How did the jailer help Paul and Silas? (*took them to his home, fed them, took care of their wounds*)
11. What did Paul and Silas do before they left Philippi? (*They stopped to see Lydia and other believers to encourage them*)
12. What is a way that God can help you find joy? (*spending time with friends and family; engaging in an activity that makes them happy like drawing, reading, baking, creating; praying; journaling; listening to worship music; etc.*)

2. Memory Verse Craft

What You Need: Wooden Cross (1 per student), markers, decorating supplies, piece of string (1 per student)

What You Do:

- Say this, "Because Paul and Silas trusted Jesus and focused on Him, God helped them find joy—even in a prison cell! You can find joy when you think about God, too. One way you can think about God is to think about our memory verse"
- Remind this month's memory verse to the group, "*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 (NIRV)
- Pass out cross to each child and place the markers and decorating in the middle of the groups.
- Encourage them to decorate their crosses.
- Pass out the string and place it through the hole in the top of the cross. Tie the ends in a knot.
- Ask these questions as they are decorating their crosses:
 - When we're dealing with a tough situation, what do you think will help more: getting stuff that makes us happy or asking God to give us joy?
 - What are some ways God helps us have joy in a hard situation? (*Your perspective on a situation changes; you feel empowered to walk through a difficult time; when a friend or loved one is there for you*)
- Tell kids to hang these crosses somewhere at home where they will remember to focus on God no matter what they are facing!

3. Discussion Questions

- What brings you happiness in normal life?
- What is the difference between happiness and joy?
- Why is it challenging to have joy in hard situations?
- Is it possible to be happy, but not have joy?

4. Pray

- “God, thank You for reminding us—through the story of Paul and Silas—that we can have joy. Thank You for hearing our prayers. Even when life is difficult, You are always with us, helping us find joy while we go through hard times. Help us remember that no matter what we’re going through, **God can help you find joy**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

EXTRA TIME COLORING SHEETS