

CITY LG – July 8-10, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Joyful Noise (Paul and Silas Are Thrown into Prison) • *Acts 16:16-40*

Today's Bottom Line: God can help you find joy.

Monthly Memory Verse: *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 (NIV)

WORSHIP

One in a Million

As the World Shakes

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, friends! I'm here. You're here. And it's a great day in the CITY! We're MOVING quickly through the summer as we find out how we can have faith.

SLIDE: Virtue

Faith is trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.

SLIDE: Theme

We can't always see what's ahead in life, but we know we can trust Jesus every step of the way. We know that Jesus came to be our Savior, and He showed us the very best way to live. We can put our faith in Jesus and follow Him here, there, and everywhere.

If you've been hanging out with us over this past year, you know that we've been moving through God's Big Story in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*)

We've been spending time lately in the book of Acts, which is where we can find the story of the early church. In the book of Acts, we can read about one of the new believers named Paul. Paul traveled thousands of miles to tell people about Jesus, and he started many new churches. When Paul moved on to new places, he wrote letters to people he had met in those churches because he wanted to encourage them to keep following Jesus.

Today, we'll pick up Paul's story in the Story Lab...

VIDEO: Bible Story

Imagine what it was like for Paul and Silas to be thrown in prison. They could have been focused on what was going wrong. But instead, they chose to trust God. And God helped them find joy!

It's important that we remember to put our faith in God, when things in our lives are going great . . . or even if they're not. Our joy doesn't come from the things that happen to us. Our joy comes from knowing that God loves us and is always with us. Check this out...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

God can help you find joy!

When Jesus lived here on Earth, He reminded his friends of something really important. He said . . .

Open the Bible to John 16:33 (NIV) and read.

"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."

When things are difficult, don't be discouraged! You can always pray and ask God for help. That doesn't mean that your situation will always change, but it WILL help you remember that God is always with you, no matter what.

Let's learn our memory verse for this month, Ephesians 2:8. Say it with me.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

"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, NIV)

Let's pray and thank God for that.

"Dear God, thank You for this amazing story about Paul and Silas. You helped them find joy when they were in a really bad situation. Help us remember that we can find joy when we put our faith in You. Thank You for reminding us today that we can trust You no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

All summer, our offering money will go to families in Kenya. They are experiencing lack of food because of an on-going drought. And the food that is available costs a LOT of money! As you can see in these pictures, this is an area in Kenya called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

SLIDES: Kenya 1-4

We are working with an organization called Missions of Hope. Our money will help them make food baskets to bring the families who live in Turkana. The food baskets will be such a blessing to the children and families in this community who have very little resources! If you have any offering you can bring it up now.

****AT YOUR COORDINATOR'S DIRECTION, YOU WILL EITHER DISMISS TO SMALL GROUP OR DO ACTIVITIES TOGETHER.**