

ALLEY SG – January 25 - 26, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Walking on Sunshine (Paul and Silas) • *Acts 16:16-40*

Today's Key Question: What brings you joy?

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

Monthly Memory Verse: *Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up.*
Psalm 31:24 (NIV)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: paper plates (2 per group), “rays” (16 per service per group), glue sticks

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams and invite teams to sit together.
- Hand each team a paper plate and a glue stick.
- Explain that teams will work together to answer trivia questions.
- Each time a team answers a question correctly, they will receive a “ray”.
- Tell teams that each time they receive a ray, they should glue it onto their paper plate.
- Choose a team to go first by asking whose birthday is in the summer. Let the team with the first kid to raise their hand go first.
- Take turns asking questions to the two teams from the list below:
 - What book of the Bible did today's story come from? (*Acts*)
 - Who were many of the earliest churches started by? (*Paul*)
 - What was the name of the town where Paul and Silas went in today's story? (*Philippi*)
 - True or False: There were a lot of people living in Philippi who already believed in Jesus. (*False*)
 - What was unique about the girl who was following Paul and Silas? (*She was being controlled by a spirit who was not from God.*)
 - How did Paul react to the girl? (*He asked God to send the bad spirit away, and she was healed.*)
 - How did the businessmen react to what Paul did? (*They got angry and took Paul and Silas to the authorities.*)
 - What was the punishment given to Paul and Silas? (*To be beaten and thrown in prison.*)
 - Once Paul and Silas were in jail how did they react? (*They chose to focus on praying and worshiping God.*)
 - What happened at the prison, shortly after Paul and Silas were singing? (*An earthquake! Everyone's chains came loose, and the doors flew open.*)
 - How did the jailer react to the earthquake? (*He assumed all the prisoners would escape and was worried he would be punished for that. He was prepared to harm himself.*)
 - How did Paul react when he saw what the jailer was about to do? (*He told the jailer not to harm himself and assured him that none of them had chosen to escape.*)
 - What happened in the jailer's life as a result of watching Paul handle the hardships he had faced? (*He and his family all believed in the good news of Jesus and were baptized.*)

- What ended up happening with Paul and Silas? (*They were released from their punishment and went on telling people about Jesus.*)
- Bonus: What is our bottom line from today's story? (*God can help you choose joy.*)
- Bonus: What is our key question from today's story? (*What brings you joy?*)
- The game ends when a team has collected and glued all the rays onto the plate to create a sun.
- Ask the following questions for discussion:
 - How do you think Paul and Silas felt when they were beaten and put in prison for helping others?
 - When you are treated unfairly, how do you usually respond?
 - How can our response shine the light of Jesus to others?
 - What does resilience mean?
- Explain that Paul and Silas had every reason to feel angry for how they were treated. Instead of retaliating, they chose to pray and worship God. Because of their actions, others were able to see the light of Jesus and believe in Him. Our choice to have joy can do the same with people in our lives.

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: "Resilience Journal 4" Activity Page, pens

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle in your group space.
- Hand each kid the "Resilience Journal 4" Activity Page and a pen.
- Explain to kids that they will be writing on a journal page to help them organize their thoughts and prayers.
- Tell them that one way we can spend time praying is by writing to God about what we're thinking and how we're feeling.
- Allow a few minutes of quiet time so that kids can write on the page.
- Give kids a chance to fill out their pages and if anyone wants to share theirs with the group.
- Explain that choosing joy won't always be easy, but when we spend with God, God can help us choose joy!

3. Discussion Questions

- Is there a difference between joy and happiness? What do you think it is?
- When is it difficult to choose joy?
- What brings you joy?
- How can other people help you choose joy?
- What does resilience have to do with joy?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: “Sunny Trivia” Activity Page (one per kid), “Sunny Trivia Answer Key” (1 per group), Bibles, pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Sunny Trivia” page.
- Hand out Bibles and a pen.
- Work together to look up the verses and answer the questions on the page.
- Use the “Sunny Trivia Answer Key” Activity Page to check their answers.
- Ask kids the following questions:
 - Which fun fact about the sun was the most surprising?
 - Which Bible verse stood out to you the most and why?
- Remind kids that we can always look to God’s Word to remind us to choose joy no matter what. God’s Word can always help us!

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...
“Dear God, thank You for my friends sitting here today! Life can be tough sometimes, but we are so thankful You can help us choose joy in every situation. Help us find the good in each day remembering that You promised to make everything right in the end for those who follow Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home to bring back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to say one way they can shine the light of Jesus to others.