



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Walking on Sunshine
Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

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

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Check out our Small Group Leader Conversation Guides to guide you through salvation conversations: <https://bit.ly/4daxSUG>

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Rainy Day Vision Boards
Application Activity: Finding the Joy
Memory Verse Activity: Showing Our Resilience
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



Before the kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time when God filled your heart with joy despite a challenge you were facing. Thank God for joy! Ask God to help you trust God no matter what, and believe that God promised to make everything right in the end for those who follow Jesus. Ask God to help the kids in your group to learn to choose joy because God is with them, no matter what they face.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Walking on Sunshine
Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, "Character Pieces Week 4" Activity Page, safety scissors, glue sticks, and coloring supplies

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you choose joy.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive to your group.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a "Character Pieces Week 4" Activity Page.
- Set out the safety scissors, the glue sticks, and the coloring supplies.
- Invite kids to choose from different character pieces to create a person who is happy.
- Ask: "What makes you happy?"
 - Prompt them with ideas such as:
 - When your family is heading to the beach
 - When you're reading a book with your favorite snack
 - When you're playing your favorite sport, etc.
- Have the kids cut out the pieces that represent someone who is happy and glue them to the middle of the page.
- Direct the kids to decorate their characters with the coloring supplies.
- As kids finish, invite them to share with you how they chose to decorate their character and why.
- As the kids share, try to engage in each kid's interests.
- Share what makes you happy too!

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



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2. FINDING THE JOY [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: "Joy Skits" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together.
- Share the scenarios below to demonstrate how our perspectives can change the way we see things!
 - Losing a game: One person may be really angry that they lost while the other is still upset, but realizes they have an opportunity to work harder next time.
 - Spilling a drink: One person may laugh and immediately clean it up, while the other person is so frustrated and disappointed in themselves for making a mess.
- Divide your group into four teams.
- Give each team a scenario card from the "Joy Skit" Activity Page.
- Encourage teams to work together in their groups to come up with a skit acting out a negative reaction to the scenario.
- Give teams a few minutes to plan their scenario.
- Invite any teams who would like to share their scenario with the group to do so.
- Encourage teams to come up with a second skit—acting out what it could look like to find joy in their scenario.
- Give kids a few minutes to plan their scenario.
- Invite any teams who would like to share their scenario with the group to do so.
- Remind kids that joy doesn't mean they have to be happy all the time. When we choose to look to God and trust God no matter what happens, we're choosing joy!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Way to work together and use your imagination, friends! Each skit showed us that how we think can change everything—from dancing in the rain to making the most of a long wait. Remember, just like you showcased, **God can help you choose joy** and resilience!"

"Whether it's something small or big—like losing the shoes you wanted to wear, or finding out someone you love is really sick—God can help us find joy all the time. The next time you find yourself not being able to find joy, start by talking to God! Stay focused on Jesus and how much He loves you!"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



3. SHOWING OUR RESILIENCE [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up this month's Memory Verse, Psalm 31:24,

following the Bible Navigation Tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Walking on Sunshine

Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 31. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 24 in chapter 31.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you choose joy.

- Read the verse out loud several times together.
- Encourage the kids to set their open Bibles aside.
- Ask: "Can anyone say the verse on their own?"
- Invite any kid who would like to recite the verse from memory the opportunity to do so.
- Model for kids how to do a plank. (See below)
 - If needed, demonstrate how to do an easier plank with your knees on the ground.
- When you say "Go!", direct kids to get in plank position and attempt to hold their plank while reciting the Memory Verse out loud.
 - Allow the kids to reference their Bibles as needed, but encourage them to recite the verse from memory as much as they can.
- Repeat a few times together.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Plank Instructions:

1. Start on your hands and knees, then place your forearms on the ground.
2. Step your feet back to form a straight line with your body.
3. Engage your core, keep your body tight, and maintain a straight back while breathing.
4. When you're ready to stop, gently lower your knees to the ground.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow, everyone! You all are SO strong! You didn't give up, and you really pushed yourselves to hold that position. And guess what? The more you practice, the longer you'll be able to hold your plank. Just imagine how strong you'll get!"



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. SHOWING OUR RESILIENCE, CONTINUED)

“Whether you're trying to make it through a tough game, or a tricky math problem—resilience is all about getting back up when something gets you down!

“Just like you can practice your planking, we can practice resilience and choosing joy. That doesn't mean we won't face challenges like difficult homework or tough days. It means that when things get hard, we can dig deep, keep trying, and know that **God can help you choose joy.**”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Remind kids that when something hard happens, you can start by talking to God and asking God to give you joy.
- Ask your group if they have any prayer requests before you begin praying.
- Close your group in prayer, including the kids' prayer requests.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"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."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show off their vision boards! Ask them to point to their favorite thing on the vision board and share why it reminds them to choose joy. Encourage adults to help their kids find a place to put their vision board this week so they can always be reminded to choose joy!

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