

# RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### 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

### 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**

Just for Fun  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

35  
MIN

#### **STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

#### **WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God**

Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Bible Story (Communicator Script)  
Key Question  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

25  
MIN

#### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions  
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You  
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO MOVE

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



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Beach balls, masking, or painter's tape

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Using tape, designate a "start line" in an area of your group space.
- Invite the two teams to form two lines behind the start line.
- Use the tape to create a "finish line" in another area of your group space.
- Ask for a kid to go first from each team and hand each of them a beach ball.
- Explain that when you say, "Go!" They will place their beach ball in between their knees, and race to the "Finish Line" and back.
- The goal is for the player to keep the beach ball from falling.
- Then, direct the next two kids from each team to balance a beach ball between their backs, racing to the finish line and back.
- Continue racing with the following beach ball variations:
  - The next person from each team dribbles the beach ball like a soccer ball.
  - The next two kids from each team will balance the beach ball between their two hips.
  - The next person from each team crab walks while balancing the beach ball on their stomach.
- Continue playing as time allows, adding other fun ideas for kids to race with a beach ball.

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### WHAT YOU SAY:

"It probably feels funny to be playing with a beach ball in January. Summer, beach balls, and the sun give me all the sunny vibes! Today, I'm feeling all the sunny vibes since we'll be talking about joy. **[Transition] Let's see what the Bible has to show us about choosing joy.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



## 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- 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?

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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



## 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Resilience Journal 4" Activity Page, pens or pencils, coloring supplies, hole punch, extra Resilience journals from previous weeks; *Optional: stickers*

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle in your group space.
- Give any kids who weren't present the weeks prior an extra resilience journal.
- Hand every kid a copy of the "Resilience Journal 4" Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Any kids who were present last week and still have their journals will only need journal 4.
- Place the coloring supplies, hole punch, and stickers (*optional*) in the center of the circle!
- Explain to kids they will be adding a page to the journals they made in the first week.
  - If there are kids who were not there for Weeks 1, 2, or 3 provide them with one of the extra journals assembled.
- Remind kids that keeping a prayer journal can help us organize our thoughts and prayers.
- Explain that choosing joy won't always be easy, but when we spend with God, God can help us choose joy!
- Show kids how to punch holes in the "Resilience Journal 4" page.
- Model how to untie the binding string, open the journal, and place the new page with the other pages.
- Then, tell the kids to thread the string through the holes again, tying a bow to secure the pages.
- Give kids a few minutes of quiet time to use coloring supplies to decorate and write on the new page.
- Point to the pages on the right side, and let the kids know there are extra pages that they can use at home to share how they're feeling with God and ask God for help.
- *Note: If you've been keeping kids' journals at church all month long, let them take theirs home this week.*
- Say a prayer for the entire group.

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