

WEEK  
**FOUR**

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

**K-3**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

**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.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you choose joy.

### SMALL GROUP

**10**  
MIN

**SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction**

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the Lord. Never give up.  
Psalm 31:24, NIV

### LARGE GROUP

**30**  
MIN

**STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**  
**WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God**  
Opener Worship:  
• "I Can Do All Things" from Orange Kids  
• "Sing Your Praise" from Orange Kids  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
What's Our Part in the Story?  
Prayer

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

**GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK  
**FOUR**

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## 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.

## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

*AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.*

*SLIDE: THEME*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

*Host enters, wearing winter attire.*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

## OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! Brrr . . . I'm glad I bundled up today. Good thing I'm dressed for winter, because we're playing a winter game as we get started today.

"This month we're talking about how we can trust God in every season. We know that God is with us—rain or shine!

"God is with us in the spring, summer, fall, and winter. God is with us when we feel happy or sad. God is with us when we feel worried, confused, angry, or silly! We all feel lots of feelings about the things that happen to us in life. In fact, God made us to feel those feelings. But it's important for us to know how to react when we feel those feelings so that we can be strong and get back up when we're feeling down.

"That's what we read in our Memory Verse for this month, Psalm 31:24. Say it with me.

*SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE*

KIDS AND HOST: *Be strong, all you who put your hope in the Lord. Never give up. (Psalm 31:24, NIV)*

*SLIDE: THEME*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

HOST: "Great job! (*Reference your winter attire*) Now, about our winter game . . . It's easy to think of things I love about the winter, because, well, it's happening right now! How about you?

What are some things you like to do in the winter?



WEEK  
**FOUR**

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

*Pause for responses. Be ready to suggest some ideas if the kids don't mention them: Christmas decorating, Christmas movies, cozy blankets, playing in the snow, etc.)*

"Good answers, everyone. Those are all great reasons to LOVE this time of year. One of my favorite things to do in the winter is have a friendly snowball fight! That's what we're about to do here today . . . and everyone gets to play.

*Worship Leaders enter so they can assist with the game.*

"We've got two teams: this side of the room, and this side (*reference both sides*). As you can see, there's a tape line separating the room in two halves. Your goal, as a team, is to keep all the snowballs on the OTHER side of that line. Meanwhile, the other team will be trying to get all of the snowballs onto YOUR side of the line. So basically, when I say 'go,' you'll keep throwing the snowballs into the other team's area. Are you ready? (*Pause for responses.*) Let the winter games begin!

**AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (60-SECOND VERSION)**

*If you're not using an on-screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for 60 seconds. Worship Leaders toss a container of "snowballs" onto each side of the room to get things started.*

*Make sure to toss them throughout that side of the room, not just in one location. The kids in the back should feel like they're getting a chance to play too.*

*Comment on the action as the kids throw the snowballs back and forth.*

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

"That was some epic winter fun! Both teams did an amazing job. Let's collect those snowballs in these containers here, and then we'll move on to Worship!"

*Get the kids to help you collect all of the snowballs in the original containers.*



WEEK  
**FOUR**

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

**WORSHIP**

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hi, friends! I don't know about you, but I'm SO ready to worship God today. Life is full of great moments and tough moments . . . and lots of moments in between. But one thing that's always true is that God is there to help us. God is *always* with us! I don't know about you - but that makes me want to praise him!

Stand up with me and let's Sing Your Praise!

*VIDEO: "SING HIS PRAISE" LIVE LYRICS*

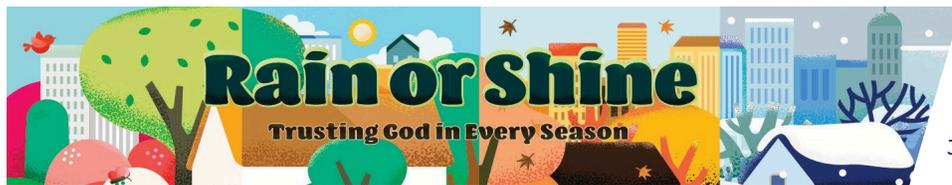
Awesome! You guys did so good singing praise to God! Let's continue to sing and celebrate Jesus. This month we learned our new song "I CAN DO ALL THINGS." This song says, 'When I feel alone, I know I'm not alone - God is with me. When I am afraid, I don't have to be afraid - God is with me. Because God is with me - ALL THE TIME - I CAN do ALL THINGS!

Remember - you're never alone!  
Remember - you don't have to be afraid!

Let's sing...

*VIDEO: "I CAN DO ALL THINGS" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO*

Closing Prayer: Pray in your own words.



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, friends! I’m glad to be here with you today as we look at a really amazing story from the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* We can find this story in the book of Acts, which is in the New Testament.

“In the book of Acts, we read about what happened with the first Jesus-followers, including the apostle Paul. Paul started many churches as he traveled around to different places and told people about Jesus.

“On one trip, God called Paul and his companions to cross the sea to go to a place called Macedonia. Paul and his friends arrived there in the city of Philippi. This was a busy city, and people from lots of different backgrounds lived there.

“A few people in Philippi worshipped the One True God, and Paul told these people about Jesus. A new church started up there that met in the home of a woman named Lydia.

“Now, I thought it would be fun to show you what happened next with some action figures.

*Hold up one of the action figures.*

“I’ll need help from some of you to come up and act out the story with these figures. Let’s start out with Paul and his friend Silas. Could I have two of you come up and help?

*Choose two kids to come up.*

*(To one of the kids on stage)* “[Kid’s name], you can go ahead and pick one of these figures to play the part of Paul.

*The kid picks an action figure and holds it up.*

“Great! *(To audience, referencing the figure)* Here we have . . . Paul.

*(To the other kid on stage)* “[Kid’s name], you can go ahead and pick out Silas.

*The kid picks an action figure and holds it up.*

“All right! *(To audience)* We’ve got Paul and Silas. *(To the two kids)* Let’s see them high-five.

*The kids make the figures high-five.*

*(To the two kids)* “You two can bring Paul and Silas and stand here behind this table. *(They do.)*



WEEK  
**FOUR**

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## HEALING THE GIRL

**STORYTELLER:** “One day, Paul and Silas were walking through the streets to go to a place where they could pray. *(To the two kids)* Let’s see Paul and Silas walk around through the city.

*The two kids move the two action figures around the table.*

“A girl started following them.

“Let’s see—who wants to come up and play the part of the girl?”

*Pick a kid to come up and pick out an action figure for the girl.*

“All right. As I was saying, this girl started following Paul and Silas around. *(To the kids on stage)* Can you show us what that looked like?”

*The three kids move their action figures around the table, with the girl following Paul and Silas.*

“The girl shouted:

*Open the Bible to Acts 16:17 (NIRV) and read.*

“*These men serve the Most High God. They are telling you how to be saved.*” (NIRV)

“This was true, of course . . . but the girl was actually being controlled by a spirit that was not from God. She kept shouting about Paul and his friends—for days! Finally, Paul commanded the spirit to come out of the girl in Jesus’ name . . . and she was healed! *(To the kid with the girl action figure)* “[Kid’s name], let me see you hold her up and shout, ‘I’m healed!’”

KID: “I’m healed!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Great job! *(To the kid)* You can head back to your seat. Thanks for your help!”

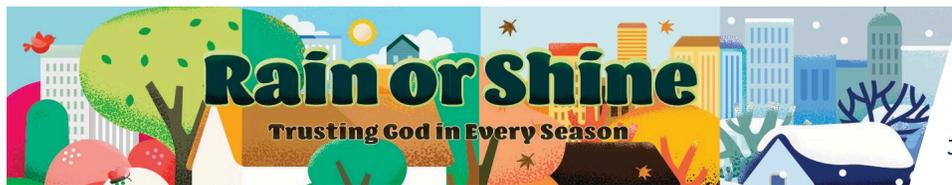
*Dismiss the kid to her seat. Have her put the girl action figure back into the box.*

*(To the audience)* “Now, there were some businessmen who had been using this girl to make money for them . . . and now that she had been healed, they couldn’t do that anymore. They were very angry, so they dragged Paul and Silas to the marketplace to face the judges of the city.

*(To the two kids)* “Here, can you move Paul and Silas to the middle of the table?”

*The two kids move their action figures to the center of the table.*

“The businessmen said that Paul and his friends were making trouble and trying to get people to do things that were against Roman law. The whole crowd joined in too.



WEEK  
**FOUR**

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

*Pick up a few of the remaining action figures from the box (as many as you can hold). Hold them on the table near Paul and Silas and make some grumbling noises. Then drop these crowd action figures back into the box.*

“So the city judges called for Paul and Silas to be whipped and thrown in prison! *(To the action figures)* Sorry, Paul and Silas.

*Place the other box labeled “PRISON” over Paul and Silas.*

### PRISON BREAK

STORYTELLER: “Paul and Silas were stuck there in prison, chained up by their feet! Even though they had every reason to be angry . . . and sad . . . and to lose all hope . . . they chose to put their trust in God. And so they were able to find JOY!

“Right there, in that prison, at midnight, Paul and Silas prayed to God—and they sang to God too! *(To the two kids)*

“Let me hear Paul and Silas sing: *(make up a melody)* ‘God, You are awesome!’

*Lift up the “PRISON” box so the kids can hold up Paul and Silas and the audience can see them.*

KIDS: “God, You are awesome!”

*Place the “PRISON” box back over Paul and Silas.*

STORYTELLER: “As Paul and Silas worshipped God, the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, a powerful earthquake shook the prison!

*Shake the “PRISON” box on the table.*

“The prison doors flew open, and all of the prisoners’ chains came loose!

*Remove the “PRISON” box and toss it away.*

“The man in charge of the jail couldn’t believe what had happened! OOH—I need one more helper to come up and act out the part of the jailer.

*Pick another kid to come up and pick out an action figure.*

“The jailer saw the wide-open doors, and he thought the prisoners had escaped and he was going to get in deep trouble. *(To the kid with the jailer action figure)* “Let me hear the jailer shout, ‘Oh no!’”

KID: “Oh no!”

STORYTELLER: “But Paul told the jailer that he and all the other prisoners were still there.



WEEK  
**FOUR**

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## THE JAILER BELIEVES

STORYTELLER: "The jailer called for some lights. He rushed into the prison and threw himself down before Paul and Silas.

*Pause to cue the kids to act this out with the action figures.*

He asked Paul and Silas:

*Open the Bible to Acts 16:30-31 (NIRV) and read.*

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved." (NIRV)

"The jailer then brought Paul and Silas to his house, and Paul and Silas told everyone the good news about Jesus. They all believed, and were baptized. Everyone was full of joy!

"The jailer took care of Paul and Silas and gave them a meal in his home.

*Pick up the kid's meal box and set it down next to the action figures.*

"In the morning, the city judges sent word that Paul and Silas should be released. But Paul and Silas refused to go without an apology. So, the judges came in person to apologize and lead Paul and Silas out of the prison. Then the judges asked them to leave the city.

"Let's give a big hand to all of our helpers. Thank you all!

*Collect the action figures and send the kid helpers back to their seats.*

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "After all of that had happened, Paul and Silas went to Lydia's home. They encouraged all the believers to be brave, and they left Philippi to continue sharing the news of Jesus.

"Paul and Silas had been treated unfairly . . . lied about . . . hurt . . . and thrown in prison. Yet they still chose to trust God. That's how they were able to find joy! They knew that God was with them—even in that deep, dark prison. And so they chose to worship God with joyful hearts.

"Here's something important that we should remember:

*SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE*

"God can help you choose joy. Say that with me."

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: "God can help you choose joy."

*Host enters.*



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

## WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "Wow! The other prisoners must have been amazed to see the joy Paul and Silas had—especially in such a difficult situation."

STORYTELLER: "Absolutely. Paul and Silas were able to find joy because they believed that God was with them. That's what gave them the resilience to keep going and not lose hope."

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

HOST: "Resilience means getting back up when something gets you down."

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

STORYTELLER: "With God's help, we can be joyful—even if things in our lives aren't going the way we want. See, there's a big difference between happiness and joy."

HOST: "It's easy to be happy when everything is going right in your life. But joy is something deeper and more real. We find joy when we look to God and choose to **[Basic Truth]** trust God no matter what."

STORYTELLER: "We can find joy—even in the middle of the troubles and challenges we face in life. Because we know that even if our troubles don't go away right now, God has promised to make everything right in the end for those who follow Jesus."

HOST: "Remember that you can always pray and ask God to help you find joy. You can also think back and remember ways that God has brought you through hard things in the past. If you stay focused on God and choose to trust God, then you'll be able to find joy and keep going, even when things get tough!"

STORYTELLER: "Let's pray and thank God for giving us joy."

## PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much for this story about Paul and Silas. They were able to find joy because they put their trust in You. They knew that You were right there with them, even in that prison! Please help us to trust You and to choose joy—when things are going great, and also when we face tough things in life. Thank You for always being there for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP