

# 3-5s | W3

## 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.

## Small Group (15 minutes)

### Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Shaking Ground

## Large Group (20 minutes)

### Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

### Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

## Small Group (25 minutes)

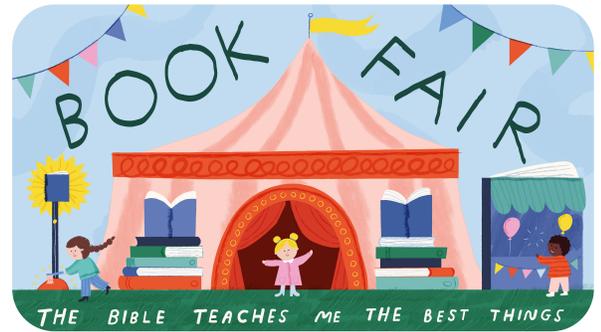
### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Emotions

Paul and Silas Move

Prayer Time

Journal and Prayer



## Bible Story

Paul and Silas • Acts 16:16-40 | I can pray to God.

## Key Question

What does the Bible teach you?

## Bottom Line

The Bible teaches me the best things.

## Memory Verse

"Your word is truth" (John 17:17 NIV).

5 min

# Social

5 min

## Shaking Ground | Made to Explore

### What You Need

 Wooden Blocks	Several
 Metal Cookie Sheets	1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Set out a cookie sheet and a small stack of blocks at each group's spot.

*During the Activity:* Encourage the children to place the blocks on their cookie sheet. Ask each group to gently shake their cookie sheet and watch what happens. Repeat as desired.

*After the Activity:* Introduce the Bible Story.

- Let children control the intensity of the shake. Offer a version where an adult gently shakes the tray if needed.
- Offer noise-cancelling headphones

20 min

# Groups

5 min

## Emotions | Made to Move

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Say the Memory Verse as you do the motions together.

*During the Activity:* Do the motions as you say the verse with different emotions.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come over to the table. Today we are going to work together in groups."

*During the Activity:* "Work with your group to make a design with these blocks on the cookie sheet. *(Pause.)* Great job! Now grab hold of your tray and gently move it back and forth. *(Pause.)* Whoa! What happened? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, when you shook your tray, the blocks moved. Let's rebuild and try again. *(Repeat as desired.)* We made the earth shake and that moved the blocks all around."

*After the Activity:* "In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about a time when there was an earthquake that opened up some doors and we'll find out what happened after that!"

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come stand with me, and let's say our verse together as we do the motions. 'Your *(point up)* word *(open hands like a book)* is truth,' *(move index finger forward from mouth)* John 17:17. *(Open hands like a book.)* Great job everyone!"

*During the Activity:* "Let's say the verse with different emotions! Let's say it sad. *(Act sad 'Your (point up) word (open hands like a book) is truth,' (move index finger forward from mouth) John 17:17. (Open hands like a book.)* Let's do it again but this time let's say it with a mad face. *(Furrow your brow and repeat the verse.)* What about silly? *(Make a silly voice and repeat the verse.)* Okay, last time let's say it happy. *(Make your*

*After the Activity:* Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

5 min

## Paul and Silas Move | Made to Move

### What You Need

 "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF 1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Gather children around you in an open space of your activity area.

*During the Activity:* Retell the Bible Story and encourage the children to participate with fun motions.

*After the Activity:* Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

- Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.
- Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

5 min

## Prayer Time | Made to Think

*happiest, biggest smile and repeat the verse.)* Fantastic! That was my favorite!"

*After the Activity:* "The Bible teaches us the best things like we can pray anywhere, anytime, about anything just like Paul and Silas did in our Bible Story today. **What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things.** That's right friends."

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come over here with me. We are going to move our bodies and retell our true story from the Bible!"

*During the Activity:* "Today, we heard a story about two friends of Jesus named Paul and Silas. Can you do the sign for "Friend" (*hook index fingers together, one on top of the other, alternating fingers*). Great job! Paul and Silas loved Jesus, and they told people everywhere that Jesus wanted to be their friend forever. Can you make the sign for "friend" again? (*Hook index fingers together, one on top of the other, alternating fingers.*) But one day, people got upset with them and put them in jail. Everyone sit down on the ground and make a sad face. (*Sit down and make a sad face*) Jail is not a fun place. But Paul and Silas knew that they could pray and talk to God anytime and anywhere! Can you put your hands together like you are praying? (*Make prayer hands.*) One night while Paul and Silas were praying the ground began to shake! Everyone, shake your body! (*Shake.*) It was an earthquake! Everyone keep shaking! (*Shake.*) Great job, now freeze! (*Stop shaking and stand still.*) Then suddenly, the doors to the jail flew open! Everyone stand up! (*Stand up.*) But Paul and Silas didn't leave! Everyone sit down. (*Sit down*) Paul and Silas stayed and told the guard that Jesus loved HIM and wanted to be HIS friend forever, too! And guess what? That day the guard decided to follow Jesus and knew that he could pray and talk to God anytime and anywhere! Did you know that we can pray and talk to God too? It's true! We can pray to God anytime and anywhere!"

*After the Activity:* "Great job everyone! Wasn't that a fun way to tell the Bible Story? The Bible teaches us that we can pray and talk to God anytime and anywhere! **[Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things. What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things.**"

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Today, we're going to think about all the places we go and all the things we can talk to God about. Are you ready to make a big list together?"

*During the Activity:* "Friends, where are some places you like to go to? (*Pause for answers.*) Oh that's a neat place. Let's write/draw the [place]. What's another one? (*Continue adding different places children name.*) That's a great list! Let's add to this column now. What are some things you can talk to God about? (*Pause for answers.*) Yes! You can talk to God about [name thing]—let's add write/draw it on our paper. (*Continue*

## What You Need

-  Butcher paper 1
-  Washable markers Several
-  Optional: Printed photos of familiar places (home, school, doctor, playground, etc.) 1
-  Optional: A feelings chart for emotions 1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Create two large columns labeled: "Places I Go" and draw a little house or car next to it, and "Things I Can Talk to God About" and draw a speech bubble or heart next to it.

*During the Activity:* Ask children where are places they go, brainstorm common places like home, school, grandma's, doctor, car, etc. and write/draw those down in the first column. Then ask what you can talk to God about? Prompt ideas like toys, feelings, friends, being scared, being thankful and write/draw those answers in the second column. Celebrate each idea!

*After the Activity:* Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

- Let children choose from pictures if they're nonverbal.

5 min

## Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  Bible 1
-  Journal 1
-  Fun-shaped pen 1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Lead the children to your Small Group spot by shaking like an earthquake.

*During the Activity:* Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions.

*After the Activity:* Pray with children using the list you made in the journal.

*with each child.)* God loves it when we talk to Him—anytime, anywhere, and about anything!"

*After the Activity:* "You all gave such great ideas! Paul and Silas knew they could pray and talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything too! The Bible has God's words in it, and teaches us that WE can talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything too. **What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things."**

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "It's Small Group time! Today, let's walk to our Small Group spot. and shake our bodies like an earthquake. Ready. Set. Go!(Shake your body as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)Woah.That was fun! Now, let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

*During the Activity:* (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) "In our Bible Story today, Paul and Silas prayed and talked to God, even when they were in jail. Then, after the ground shook and the doors to the jail opened, Paul and Silas chose to stay and tell the guard that Jesus wanted to be his friend forever, too!Paul and Silas knew that God loved them, and that they could pray and talk to God anytime, anywhere! We can pray and talk to God anytime and anywhere, too!

"We're learning a Bible verse to help us remember that what the Bible teaches us is true. Our verse says, 'Your (point up) word (open hands like a book) is truth,' (move index finger forward from mouth) John 17:17 (open hands like a book). Let's stand up and say that together. 'Your (point up) word (open hands like a book) is truth,' (move index finger forward from mouth) John 17:17 (open hands like a book). I'm so glad we

have the Bible to teach us the best things! **What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things."**

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Since Paul and Silas knew that they could pray and talk to God anywhere, we are going to make a list of places we can pray to God. When I say your name, tell me one place you can pray and talk to God, and I will write it in our journal. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

*After the Activity:* "This is a great list of places we can pray to God! (*Hold up journal.*) Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible to teach us what is true. Thank You that we can pray and talk to You when we are at (*read the list the children made*). We love you, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."

# Supplies

## Shaking Ground | Made to Explore Quantity

- |    |                     |         |
|----|---------------------|---------|
| 1. | Wooden Blocks       | Several |
| 2. | Metal Cookie Sheets | 1       |

## Paul and Silas Move | Made to Move Quantity

- |    |                                 |   |
|----|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. | "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF | 1 |
|----|---------------------------------|---|

## Prayer Time | Made to Think Quantity

- |    |  |         |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Butcher paper  | 1       |
| 2. | Washable markers   | Several |
| 3. | Optional: Printed photos of familiar places (home, school, doctor, playground, etc.) | 1       |
| 4. | Optional: A feelings chart for emotions  | 1       |

## Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect Quantity

- |    |                |   |
|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | Bible          | 1 |
| 2. | Journal        | 1 |
| 3. | Fun-shaped pen | 1 |