

Lifepoint Kids Juniors

June 12, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Jesus can help me choose joy.

Paul and Silas in Prison • *Acts 16:16-34*

Memory Verse: "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13, NLT

Key Question: Who can help you do everything?

Bottom Line: Jesus can help me do everything.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Show Joy

Instruments of Joy

LARGE GROUP (20 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Passing Joy Verse

Microphone

Joy Parade

Review and Prayer

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

- *Activities designed to introduce children to Today's Bible Story prior to Large Group Time.*

1. Show Joy

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Invite the children, either one at a time or in groups, to go on the stage and do something that shows joy like dance, clap, smile, or laugh.

What You Say: *Before the Activity:* "Hey, friends! Today we're going to show each other how we show joy! We can show joy by smiling, dancing, or just doing anything that makes us happy. I made us a cool stage. (*Point to the rectangle.*) We can all get on the stage and show our JOY!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job, friends. I love watching everyone show joy. Did you know that Jesus can help us choose joy? We'll hear all about it in our Bible story today!"

2. Instruments of Joy

What You Do: *Before the Activity:* Gather the children to sit in a circle in your activity area. Before you pass out the instruments, explain to the children that you are the conductor. They must watch you to know when to play. When you wave your arms like a conductor, they play. When you put your arms down at your sides, children should stop playing and set their instruments down. Pass out the instruments for the children to play.

During the Activity: Invite the children to play their instruments together to show joy! Raise your arms and wave them like a conductor when you want them to play. Put them down at your sides when you need them to stop. Wave your arms then put them down several times. You can even have the children trade instruments between each round of play, but be sure to sanitize any instruments that are played with the mouth.

After the Activity: Gather and set instruments aside.

What You Say: *Before the Activity:* "Friends, let's play some instruments! I'll be the conductor. When you see me wave my arms like this (*demonstrate*), I want you to play. But when I put my arms down at my sides like this, I want you to stop playing and set your instrument down in front of you. Ready?"

After the Activity: "That was SUPER fun! It brings me so much joy to hear you play. We'll hear about how we can always have joy in our Bible story today! Let's go."

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

1. Passing Joy Verse

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Gather the children to sit in a circle in your activity area. Review this month's memory verse by passing the ball around the circle to share the joy as you repeat the words of the verse. Pass the ball as you repeat the verse together as long as time and interest allow. Set the ball aside for clean-up.

What You Say: *Before the Activity:* "Friends, come sit in a circle with me!"

During the Activity: "Let's pass the ball around the circle as we repeat our verse together. Say it with me, 'I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength,' Philippians 4:13." *(Repeat as desired.)*

After the Activity: "Great job! Jesus can help us choose joy. Jesus can help us do everything! We can make big waves when we follow Jesus. **Who can help you do everything? [Bottom Line] Jesus can help me do everything.**"

2. Microphone

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Encourage children to decorate their microphone with stickers then add the label. Have them hold their microphones to their mouth and say the Bottom Line into it. Review the Bible story.

What You Say: *Before the Activity:* "Today in our Bible story, we heard a story about Paul and Silas. They chose to sing and praise Jesus with joy in a hard situation. They knew that no matter where they were, Jesus was still their friend forever. Jesus helped them choose joy!"

During the Activity: "Paul and Silas sang and praised Jesus. Let's decorate a microphone to sing and praise Jesus with. Add some stickers and your label to your microphone. *(Pause.)* These look great! Now hold your microphones to your mouth and tell me **who can help you do everything? [Bottom Line] Jesus can help me do everything.** Awesome! Let's sing 'Jesus Loves Me' with our microphones. *(Sing with the children.)* Awesome job, friends! Jesus can help us do everything!"

After the Activity: "The story of Paul and Silas teaches us that with Jesus, we can choose joy when we are at the playground or the doctor, on sunny or rainy days. Jesus can help us choose joy. **[Bottom Line] Jesus can help me do everything. Who can help you do everything? [Bottom Line] Jesus can help me do everything.**"

3. Joy Parade

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Give each child a craft stick. Ask the children to form a single file line while holding their craft stick up with the sticker showing. Lead the line of children around the activity area while chanting, “Jesus can help me choose joy.”

What You Say: *Before the Activity:* “Jesus can help us choose joy. Let’s have a joy parade!”

During the Activity: (Give each child a craft stick.) “These are our JOY sticks! Let’s hold our JOY sticks up high and have a parade. We can show everyone our JOY! While we walk, let’s say ‘Jesus can help me choose joy!’” *(Do activity.)*

After the Activity: “That was so much fun! Jesus can help us do everything. **Who can help you do everything? [Bottom Line] Jesus can help me do everything!**”

4. Review and Prayer

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Today in our Bible story, Paul and Silas chose joy, even though they were in a sad place. What did Paul and Silas do when they chose joy? *(Pause.)* Yes! They sang to God. Paul and Silas knew that Jesus was their friend forever and Jesus helped them choose joy. Jesus can help us choose joy, too, because Jesus can help us do everything! **Who can help you do everything?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: *[Bottom Line]* “Jesus can help me do everything!”

SGL: “And the Bible verse we are learning will help us remember that Jesus can help us do everything. It says . . .

CHILDREN and SGL: “I can *(thumbs to chest)* do everything *(march)* through Christ *(point up)*, who gives me strength,’ *(muscle arms)* Philippians 4:13.” *(Open hands like a book.) (Repeat.)*

SGL: “Now, let’s sit talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?” *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, choosing joy when we are in a sad place is hard. Thank You for sending Jesus to help us choose joy. Jesus can help us do everything! You are the best God, and we love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”