

July 15, 2018 – World Changers

Bible Story Focus: Paul's Joy in Prison
Philippians 1:12-30

Memory Verse: To me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

Main Point: Paul told the Philippians to be joyful.

Big Picture Question: When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities as Your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive.

1. JOY

What you need: Joy Activity Page

What you do: Print the word JOY in large, capital letters on a sheet of paper. Demonstrate to the group how to use their arms to form the shape of each of the letters of the word JOY.

SAY • Paul wanted the believers in the city of Philippi to understand that they could be joyful even when life was hard.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Philippians 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Book of Philippians contains the words that Paul wrote in his letter to the believers in their city of Philippi. Listen as I tell the story to hear what Paul thought was better than living for Jesus.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO – Paul's Joy in Prison

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • Paul told the Philippians to be joyful. Paul faced hard times, but God used him to share the good news about Jesus and to help the church. Paul knew that because Jesus suffered to rescue people from their sins, believers who do God's work will suffer too.

Ask the following review questions:

1. Who was able to visit Paul while he was living as a prisoner? (other believers)
2. Why was Paul joyful about all the troubles he had? (Everything that happened helped him tell more people about Jesus.)
3. Who had God given Paul and all believers to help us? (the Holy Spirit)
4. Whom did Paul tell the believers to honor in how they lived their lives? (Jesus)
5. What is the important work that God gives all believers? (to believe in Jesus, to suffer for Jesus, to tell others about Jesus)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • It wasn't fun to be in prison, but Paul knew that God gave him opportunities to tell people about Jesus. When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1 . Bible Story Coloring Page

Snack

Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack. Remind preschoolers that Paul told the Philippians to be joyful.

Pray for the children.

SAY • God, nobody wants to have hard times, but thank You for the hard times Paul had. Paul did Your work, and because You used Paul, many people have heard that Jesus rescues people from sin. When we face hard times, help us remember that Jesus suffered too. Remind us that You are doing good things in our hard times. Amen.