



Lights, Camera, Action!

Paul and Silas' Big Quake

BIG IDEA: I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.

BIBLE BASIS: Acts 16:16–40

KEY VERSE: “Never stop praying.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

2S & 3S CLASSES

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

PRE-K & K CLASSES

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

Scripture marked "NIV" is taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of Biblica. Scripture marked "NirV" is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version™, Copyright ©1995, 1996, 1998 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved. All scripture references are taken from NirV unless otherwise stated.

User Agreement:

The GO! curriculum by Go Tell It, LLC is intended for download and print by subscribing entities only. It may not be transferred electronically to or duplicated by other non-subscribing entities. If the GO! curriculum is cost prohibitive for your organization, please contact us about assistance. We are awesomely generous! All use must be in accordance with the Terms of Use agreement as described on the website www.gocurriculum.com.

10.5 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Psalm 18:6 says,

“When I was in trouble, I called out to the LORD.
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice.
My cry for help reached his ears.”

What is your reaction to this verse? Here is mine: “Why do I keep forgetting this?” There are so many instances where I am going through a difficult time and I don’t talk to God about it. You would think that if I had the ear of the Almighty God, I would never hesitate to call out to Him!

Sometimes I forget to bring Him in on my troubles and difficult decisions I must make. I rely on my own understanding instead of tapping into God’s help and wisdom. Can you relate?

This week, as you prepare to lead the kids in your ministry, spend some time calling out to God. Bring Him in on your problems and troubles. How infinitely better to have God’s help than to rely on ourselves. Our cries do reach His ears!

Rebecca Crews
GO! Team Member



LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

7 Steps to Becoming a Master of Memorization

Alright, I'm going to be honest here. I've never heard anyone say that memorization is their favorite thing in the world, but great communicators love delivering great messages and part of delivering a great message is knowing what you're going to say. Think for just a moment about the best speeches or sermons you've ever heard. I'll bet it wasn't being read to you from a script. One of the reasons it was such a good message is because the pastor or speaker had it committed to memory, which allowed them to focus on delivering it in a powerfully impacting way. There's no way around it, memorization requires some work, but the payoff is huge and there are some things you can do to make it easier. Here's a quick guide to get you started:

Read the whole lesson first. Before you commit anything to memory, you have to know the big picture. It's kind of like using plans to build a bird house. Before you make your first cut or start hammering on things, it helps to know what it's supposed to look like when you're finished.

Mark up the lesson. Pens and highlighters are your best friends! Underline and highlight key phrases, transition sentences, difficult lines, and anything else you think is worthy. This will create visual handles in the lesson that your brain can grab ahold of.

Chunk it. Your brain has trouble remembering vast amounts of unbroken information, so break the lesson down into smaller chunks. When you memorize, just focus on one chunk at a time and then put them all together at the end. The GO! curriculum helps with this by labeling many of the different chunks for you.

Read and recite. Starting with the first chunk, read the first sentence or two. Then put the lesson down and recite it back from memory. Continue doing this until you reach the end of the chunk. Then return to the top and recite the whole chunk in its entirety.

Focus on the transitions. Often the most difficult parts to remember are the transitions from one "chunk" to the next. Be doubly familiar with your transitions.

Write out trouble spots. If there's a line or section that keeps giving you trouble, hand write it out. This involves a separate part of your brain and can help with retention.

Recite the lines out loud. It may seem awkward at first, but speaking the lines is tremendously helpful. Practice teaching the lesson out loud in front of an imaginary audience. It's even better if you can do it in the actual space where the lesson is being taught.

10.5 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



UNIT DESCRIPTION

Quiet on the set — it's movie making time! During "Lights, Camera, Action!" the preschoolers will give the performance of a lifetime as they act out scenes from Bible stories about the early church. When shooting wraps up, they'll have discovered that the church is our supporting cast, but Jesus is the real star of the show!

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- During the storytelling time, the teacher will video record the children as they act out various "scenes" from the Bible story. Provide the teacher with a video camera or confirm they have a cell phone that records video.
- Note: If you are going to use the video for external purposes such as social media, it is a good practice to obtain parental permission first. Otherwise, only use the videos to show to the preschoolers at church.
- Optional: After the lesson, consider uploading the videos to a media presentation software like PowerPoint® and play it on a video screen or computer for the children to see the following week.
- Create a "Super Duper Bible Box" and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the "Super Duper Bible Box."
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher's Story Time Rules signs and Topher's Big Idea signs on 8½" x 11" cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See "Getting Started" in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

10.5 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

WELCOME AND MUSIC

Music: Play one or two upbeat worship songs

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello, everybody! It's so, so good to see you here at church. We're going to have so much fun today! We're going to make our very own Bible story movie.

Say: Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** It's true! **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** In fact, our memory verse from the Bible is all about prayer. Let me teach it to you.

*“Never (shake head “no”)
stop (put hand up in stop motion)
praying (fold hands together).”*

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (extend hands like you're holding a book).

Say: Let's do that together. *(Repeat memory verse with children two or three times.)*

2s & 3s - STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: Play “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video

(Note: Play the “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

10.5 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! INTRO

Say: Do you ever need help with things? *(Children respond.)* Me too! I have an idea — let's pretend to call people and ask for help. We can call our mommies first. Hold up your pretend phone with me. *(Hold up pretend phone.)* Let's dial the phone, then when I point to you, you say, "Hello Mommy! I need some help." *(Pretend with children to dial the phone by making "beep" and "boop" sounds, then point and say line with children.)* Who else can we call? *(Take answers one at a time. Repeat the above instructions for each answer.)*

Say: I know someone else we can call for help! Let's call Jesus! *(Look at phone with confusion.)* Wait a second — I don't know what Jesus' phone number is. How are we going to talk to Him? *(Children respond.)* That's right! We don't need a phone to talk to Jesus — we can pray to Him! He can hear us when we talk. *(Talk in a loud whisper.)* He can hear us when we whisper. *(Talk in a quiet whisper.)* He can even hear us when we don't make a sound.

Say: You know what — that reminds me of today's Bible story. It's about two men who pray to Jesus and say, "Hello Jesus! I need some help." If you're ready to hear that story, wiggle your fingers in the air. *(Children wiggle fingers.)* Great! First, let's get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. *(Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.)* I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

Slide: Show the "Paul and Silas in Jail" slide

10.5 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BIG BIBLE STORY — PAUL AND SILAS IN JAIL

(Note: Use a cell phone or video camera to record the children as they perform the various short Bible “scenes.” For each scene, show the children what to do first, then have them do it. When the lesson is over, consider showing the scenes to the children.)

Say: Are you ready to make our Bible movie? *(Children respond.)* Great! I’ll tell you what to do. Then, when I say, “Lights, camera, action!,” you do it.

Say: In the Bible, in the Book of Acts, there were two men named Paul and Silas who loved Jesus very much. Paul and Silas travelled all over the world telling people that Jesus loved them too. Let’s pretend to be Paul and Silas. When I say, “Action!,” hug someone next to you and say, “Jesus loves you so much.” Lights, camera, action! *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! Nice work!

Say: But there were some mean people who didn’t believe in Jesus. They didn’t like what Paul and Silas were saying, so they had them arrested and taken to jail. When I say, “Action!,” let’s shake our finger and use our mean voice to say, “You can’t say that! You’re under arrest!” Lights, camera, action! *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! That was wonderful!

Say: When Paul and Silas got to jail, their feet were put into chains so they couldn’t run away. That night, with their feet chained together, Paul and Silas prayed and sang songs to Jesus. When I say, “Action!,” fold your hands like you’re praying and say, “Dear Jesus, please help me.” Lights, camera, action! *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! Nice job!

Say: While they were praying and singing, God sent a powerful earthquake. When I say, “Action!,” shake your body all around and shout, “Oh no! It’s an earthquake!” Lights, camera, action! *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! Nice job!

Say: The earthquake was so big that it shook the jail doors open and it shook the chains loose from the prisoner’s feet. When the guard woke up, he thought that Paul and Silas had escaped. Let’s pretend to be the guard. When I say, “Action!,” make a scared face and say, “The prisoners are gone! I’m in big trouble!” Lights, camera, action! *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! That was wonderful!

Say: But they weren’t gone. Paul shouted to the guard, “We are still here!” The guard couldn’t believe it! He was amazed at what Jesus did and wanted to know more about Him. So Paul and Silas told the guard about Jesus. That day, the guard and his *whole* family began following Jesus too. When I say, “Action!,” I want you to jump up and down like the guard and say, “Hooray! I love Jesus too!” *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! And that’s a wrap!

10.5 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Encourage the children to stand up. Lead them in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)

Music: Play one worship song

Say: In our story for today, Paul and Silas prayed to Jesus for help. Did Jesus answer their prayer? *(Children respond.)* Yes, He did! Jesus helped Paul and Silas get out of jail. Paul and Silas prayed to Jesus, and we can pray to Jesus too!

Say: When Paul and Silas prayed to Jesus, what time was it? *(Take answer.)* It was nighttime. Do you think that's the only time you can pray to Jesus? *(Children respond.)* No! You can pray to Jesus anytime.

Say: When Paul and Silas prayed to Jesus, where were they? *(Take answer.)* They were in jail. Do you think that's the only place you can pray to Jesus? *(Children respond.)* No! You can pray to Jesus anywhere.

Say: When Paul and Silas prayed to Jesus, what did they pray about? *(Take answer.)* They prayed about getting out of jail. Do you think that's the only thing you can pray to Jesus about? *(Children respond.)* No! You can pray to Jesus about anything.

Say: Jesus loves you so much. Even though you can't see Him, He's right here with you, and He wants to talk to you. And the best part is that **you can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.**

10.5 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Say: Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** On the count of three, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to three and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye, kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer right now and thank Jesus for hearing us when we talk to Him. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

**Dear Jesus,
Thank You for loving me so much.
And thank You for listening to me.
I'm so glad I can talk to You
Anytime, anywhere, and about anything.
Amen.**