

10.5 Small Group Lesson | Preschool

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

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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

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SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Being a Part of a Kid's Pit Crew

Life can be rough sometimes. We all get our fair share of bumps and bruises along the way, but wouldn't it be nice if life had a pit stop that you could pull into so you could get four new tires and a tank of gas? As rough as we think we have it, kids have it just as bad (and sometimes worse). And for a lot of them, their time with you at church is the closest thing they'll get to a pit stop. Every week they do a lap around life's track, enduring emotional and spiritual bumps and bruises, before they come screeching into your presence. This is your chance to bang out some dents and refuel those kids for another lap. One of the best ways to do that is with words of encouragement. Don't know what to say? Start with this:

Call out the truth in them. How often do you notice or think something positive about someone, but fail to share it with them? If all you did was to give voice to the wonderful things you notice or think about the kids in your group, you would light up their week. More than that, you'll be helping them to form a positive identity that will stick with them for life!

I'm glad to see you. If kids know that their presence brings joy to people, they'll want to come back over and over again. A simple, "I'm glad to see you," reinforces that they're someone worth knowing.

I missed you last time. If one of the kids in your group was gone the last time you served, let them know you noticed. This will help your kids realize they're an integral part of the community.

Great answer! I like how you think! Unfortunately, kids are far more prone to hearing someone tell them they're "dumb" than they are to have someone call out their brilliance. When you bring positive attention to a kid's answer and thought process, it encourages them to participate all the more in the future. Positive reinforcement helps to produce great thinkers.

Develop an arsenal of encouragement. Have some "go-to" words of encouragement that will brighten your kid's day. Like these: God thinks you're awesome! Way to go! You're a really cool kid! Great idea! You're the best! That was awesome! Nice try! You're a lot of fun! You make me smile! I can't wait to see you again!

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☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

SHAKE IT UP

Supplies: Building blocks (1 set), towel (1)

Directions: Place a towel on the table or floor. Invite the children to build houses and towers out of blocks on the towel. When finished, have the children hold the towel by its edges. Instruct them to shout, “Earthquake!” then shake the towel back and forth until the houses and towers fall down. Repeat as often as time and interest allow.

Say: In today’s true Bible story, there’s a powerful earthquake that shakes things up. We’ll hear all about it in just a little bit, and we’ll learn that **we can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.**

Question: What do you think it would feel like to be in an earthquake?

COMBINED LG – 11:00

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★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the Large Group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

I CAN PRAY (Application Activity)

Supplies: Ball (1 per group)

Say: Today we learned that **we can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** Let's play a game that helps us think about how we can pray to Jesus.

Directions: Sit in a circle with the children. Sing the "Anytime Rhyme" (see below) with the children to the tune of "Wheels on the Bus." While singing, pass the ball around the circle. When the song is over, stop passing the ball, then ask the child holding the ball the corresponding question. Repeat multiple times using the same rhyme before switching to the "Anywhere Rhyme" and corresponding question. Again, after multiple rounds, switch to the "Anything Rhyme." Before the game is over, be sure that every child has had a turn to answer at least one question.

Anytime Rhyme

I can pray to Jesus anytime, anytime, anytime.

I can pray to Jesus anytime, all through the day.

Question: What time of the day do you like to pray to Jesus?

Anywhere Rhyme

I can pray to Jesus anywhere, anywhere, anywhere.

I can pray to Jesus anywhere, all through the day.

Question: Where is your favorite place to pray to Jesus?

Anything Rhyme

I can say to Jesus anything, anything, anything.

I can say to Jesus anything, all through the day.

Question: What do you say to Jesus when you pray to Him?

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ALL FALL DOWN (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, Paul and Silas prayed to Jesus for help, then Jesus used an earthquake to help free them from jail. Let's play an earthquake game that helps us remember that **we can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.**

Directions: Have all of the children line up against one wall. Tell them they have to get to the opposite wall in whatever way you tell them to, but they can only move when you say, "Green Light...GO!" When you say, "Red Light...STOP!" they must all stop immediately. Alternate between red light and green light, but periodically shout, "Earthquake!" At that point, the children must all fall down. Before getting up, the children must altogether say, "**I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.**" Use the list below for ideas on methods of movement, but feel free to make up your own as well. Play for as long as time and interest allow. When finished, sit in a circle with the children and ask the questions below.

Methods of Movement:

- Walk
- Run
- Skip
- Hop on two feet
- Crawl
- Crab walk
- Bear crawl
- Hop on one foot
- Twirl

Question: When you pray to Jesus, you can tell Him how much you love Him. What do you love about Jesus?

THE GIGGLE MONSTER (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: None

Today's Bible verse:

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

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

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. Next, have all of the children stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder. Tell the children that you are the Giggle Monster and, no matter what you say or do, they must try not to smile or giggle. If they do, they've been caught by the Giggle Monster and have to sit down. Without touching them, begin making silly faces and noises or do silly things to make them smile or laugh. Once all (or most) of the children are seated, tell them they must recite the Bible verse in order to escape. As a group, recite the verse together, then have all of the children stand up again. Repeat multiple times, allowing different children to be the Giggle Monster.

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IT'S SHOWTIME (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Bible Story Script (1 per group)

Directions: Tell the children they are going to create their own Bible story play. Tell them you are the director and they are the actors. You don't have to assign roles; all of the children can play act each of the characters from the story. Slowly read the Bible Story Script to the children. As you read, pause occasionally and allow the children to decide how they should act out the scene. As the director, you can give them instructions if they need help. Afterwards, have the children take a seat and ask the question below.

Question: What was your favorite part of that story to act out? Why did you like acting out that part of the story?

PRAISE PICTURE (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), markers or crayons.

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to draw a praise picture for Jesus. It can be a picture of anything that shows Jesus they love Him.

Say: In today's true Bible story, Paul and Silas praised Jesus even when they were in jail. Let's say a prayer and praise Jesus for being so wonderful. We can tell Him all of the things we love about Him.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by telling Jesus why you think He's wonderful and why you love Him so much.

Question: If you were Paul and Silas, what would you have said to Jesus when you prayed in jail?

Question: When Paul and Silas were in jail, they sang songs to Jesus. Do you have a favorite song that you like singing to Jesus?