



WEEK
THREE
MAY 2026

SMALL GROUP
PRESCHOOL

BIG IDEA

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

BIBLE

Paul and Silas' Big Quake
Acts 16:16-40

MEMORY VERSE

"Never stop praying." 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIRV)

SCHEDULE: PLAY TIME ACTIVITIES 15-20 minutes LARGE GROUP LESSON 20-25 minutes
SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES: 25-35 minutes (15 minute rotations)

LARGE GROUP

Slide: Show "Lights, Camera, Action!" title graphic

Music: (Optional) Play upbeat music (song in preservice) as children enter the storytelling area

WELCOME & WORSHIP

INSTRUCTIONS: As children enter the story time area, give them a high-energy welcome – smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you're glad to see them. For added energy during the transition, play a fun song that the children are familiar with. Invite the kids to worship with you. There are instruments and ribbons under the desk for you to use anytime. Please remind them:

- Worship is a way to show God how much you love Him and to thank Him for all He has done.
- Worship makes God happy. God loves it when we sing and pray to Him
- Please stand during worship and use inside walking feet only.

Music: play worship songs and lead the kids in singing

After the songs, help the children sit down by saying the following rhyme with them:

Topher the Gopher 1, 2, 3. (Clap on each number.)

Digs a hole right under me. (Make a motion as if digging with a shovel.)

Slowly I start sinking down. (Twist your body back and forth, lower and lower to the ground.)

Until I'm sitting on the ground. (Sit down on ground or chair.)

BIBLE STORY | Paul and Silas' Big Quake, Acts 16:16-40

INSTRUCTIONS: Pass out the fruit snacks during the Bible Story Rules video, remind them to hold their trash till the end of the story.

Say, before the Video:

- 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.
- Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

STORY TIME RULES

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

BE KIND

BE SAFE.

HAVE FUN



Video: Play “Topher Time” video (Bible Story)

PRAYER

“Open shut them, open shut them, give your hands a clap. Open shut them, open shut them, place your hands in your lap”

- 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.

SMALL GROUP

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

Say: “We learned that we can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything—and today we have a new memory verse about praying! Let’s practice it with some fun activities. You can choose one or try them all!”

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

“Teach It with Motions”

- Say the verse slowly
 - Add motions:
 - **Never** → shake head
 - **Stop** → hand out
 - **Praying** → fold hands
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:17** → open hands like a book
 - Do it 3 times together
- ☞ Keep it upbeat: “Let’s do it again!”

“Say It Like...”

Repeat the verse in silly ways:

- Whisper
 - Loud
 - Silly voice
 - Robot
 - Choose your own
- ☞ Always do motions with each version

“Freeze Dance Verse”

- Play music, kids dance
- Stop music → freeze → say the verse with motions
- ☞ Repeat 2–3 rounds

“Challenge Round”

Pick one:

- Say it super fast
- Say it super slow
- Say it with eyes closed
- Say it without you leading

Finish with:

☞ “WOW! You learned it!!”

★ **Bonus Trick** (Works REALLY well)

Throughout the rest of your time together:

- Randomly say: “**Never...**”
- Let kids shout: “**STOP PRAYING!**”

Kids love completing it—and it locks it into memory.



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

SMALL GROUP

COLORING SHEET (GO! Deeper Activity)

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

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

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.

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?

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.



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?

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

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?



LIGHTS,
CAMERA,
ACTION!



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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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ACTION!



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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 having 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!