



I Can Choose the Door of Joy Kindergarten - 5th grade

Leader Notes

Bible Passage: Paul and Silas in Prison- Acts 16: 16-40

Bottom Line: I can choose the door of joy.

Leader Context: Paul and Silas took a tough situation and turned it into an opportunity to bring praise to God. We will all experience many trials in life that can leave us feeling sad and burdened. God calls us to choose joy in those situations and use them as an opportunity to trust Him and how He may be working.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

Social

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

Videos

Bible Story Video (5 minutes)

Transition to Teaching Video - Say This!

How did Paul and Silas choose to have joy when they were in prison? *They sang songs and prayed to God.*

What did other people do when they saw Paul and Silas being joyful? *They wanted to like Paul and Silas. They wanted to know more about God and have joy, too.*

In our video today there were so many things for Paul and Silas to celebrate, even the jailer has things to celebrate. It was Paul and Silas's response that helped the jailer believe in Jesus. Even though Paul and Silas were thrown in jail, they still chose joy.

This means they chose to worship God even though they were not happy and didn't like being in jail. Let's watch this video together to see how to choose joy even when we do not feel happy..

Teaching Video (10 minutes)

Soak Up the Joy Object Lesson (20 minutes)

What You Need: large bowl, sponge, water, dark liquid (like grape juice, soda, or dark food coloring), paper towels

What You Do:

- Let's pretend we are this sponge. Every day good and bad things happen to us. When good things happen, we are happy. When bad things happen, we are sad. But here we are talking about joy. Joy is when we are content in Jesus. That means despite the good and bad things that happen in our lives, we can have joy because we have Jesus.
- Put the sponge in the large bowl and pour the water into the bowl while you ask kids what are some of the things that made them happy this week.
- Pour the dark liquid into the bowl while you ask them what are some things that made them sad this week.
- Remind the children of the things they said that make them happy and those that make them sad.
- Pull out the sponge and squeeze the liquid out, saying something like: Although the sponge has soaked up both liquids and seems like a mixture of good and bad things, the sponge is still a sponge. Even though sad things may happen to us, it doesn't mean we have to be sad! We can release the sadness and turn it to joy!

Say: Just like the sponge was still a sponge even after the dark liquid- or sadness- was added to it, Paul and Silas were still joyful even in prison. WE can be joyful no matter what because we have the joy of the Lord inside of us when we believe in Jesus for life.

What does worship mean? *worship is anything we do that tells or shows God you love Him.*

What are some ways we can worship God other than singing? *Worship can be lots of different things. You can spend time in nature, appreciating God's creation and thanking Him for the beautiful world we live in. You can write poetry for God, draw a picture or paint for God, and you can even worship by dancing for God. You can worship when you give your time or money. You can worship God with everything you say and do.*

How is giving an act of worship? *Like we saw in our video, even giving our money can be worship. When we give with the right attitude, giving is a gift to God. It shows Him we love Him and believe in the church and what it's doing to bring people to Christ. Remember, worship is anything we do that shows God we love Him.*

What is the difference between joy and happiness? *Joy is an emotion we get to experience when the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts because it's based on the realization that we are loved by Jesus. But happiness is based on our experiences or other people, so it can come and go. For example, you get a grade on a test. Depending on the grade, you may be happy or sad, but you can still have joy. Joy is eternal, but happiness is temporary.*

Is it okay to be sad or have a bad day? *Absolutely! Even if you have joy, you can still be sad or upset when certain things happen. Choosing joy means choosing to focus on how good God is even during tough times, just like Paul and Silas did.*

Say: "Remember that Jesus loves you. He knows things happen in life that aren't great. He experiences some pretty awful things when he was living on earth. He gets how you feel. But you can still choose joy."
Pray- Ask God to show you what it means to choose joy even in hard times. When you feel like things are too hard and you want to be upset or angry, ask God to help you see His promises and choose to worship Him through it.

Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.