



Paul's Joy in Prison

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

Bottom Line: While he was in prison, Paul told the Philippian church to be joyful.

Memory Verse: ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:20-21 NIV

Christ Connection: God used Paul's difficult circumstances to spread the gospel and build the church. Paul knew that because Jesus suffered to bring salvation to the world, believers doing God's work would suffer too.

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Scribble pictures

What You Need: paper, pencils,

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to sit in a circle, around a table if possible.
- Provide each kid with a piece of paper and a pencil. Instruct the kids to make a quick squiggle or scribble shape on their paper, then pass it to their left.
- Each kid should now try to turn the scribble into a new picture of her own.
- Encourage kids to include the scribbled shape into their new drawings.

What You Say "At first, it might have looked like we were ruining perfectly good paper by scribbling on it, but when you passed the paper each of you found a way to turn someone's mess into a new picture. Today we will learn about a man named Paul and hear what God did to make his life beautiful, even in the midst of messy situations. "

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

GAME, SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

Game- Cantagious

What You Need: 3 empty soda cans per player, 3 full closed soda cans per player

What You Do- Each player will move the soda cans by stacking them and then separating them without setting them down or leaning them against your body. The cans must change hands at the end all full cans must be in opposite hand from where it started in the end.

What You Say- Difficult circumstances teach us so much about ourselves and others. In today's story Paul learned that his circumstances helped more people know Jesus and understand salvation

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today's Passage

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. **Philippians 1:27-30**

Context

We've been hearing a lot of stories about Paul, a man who loved Jesus and wanted to share the news of the gospel with everyone he met. Let's review the stories we've discussed the last few weeks. I'll say the story, and you respond with the main point from that week. Ready?

- **"The Plan to Stop Paul"**— When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.
- **"Paul Before Rulers"**— Paul preached about Jesus to governors and kings.
- **"The Shipwreck"**— God protected Paul in the shipwreck so he could stand before Caesar.

Today's Takeaways

- Joy comes from knowing who God is and what He has promised us.
- Joy comes from trusting Jesus.
- **BL: While he was in prison, Paul told the Philippian church to be joyful. |**
- Happiness is temporary and relies on our circumstances.
- Happiness is a good feeling based on good things happening in your life.
- As Christians, we can have joy even when we are sad because we know that Jesus is King and we will live forever with Him.

TOC & Prayer



All Star Kids

July 15, 2018
Kinder- 2nd grade

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- Can you think of a time you felt joyful? What caused you to feel that way?
- Can you imagine being in prison?
- Can you imagine being joyful while also being in prison?
- Why do you think Paul was joyful?

Activity: Pick a side

What You Need: paper, markers, pencils, tape

What You Do:

- Label one side of the room with a smiling face and one side with a frowning face.
- Give a list of events, items, or circumstances and invite kids to show if it makes them smile or frown by crossing to that side of the room.
- After calling each item, ask a few volunteers to share why they picked that side.
Suggestions:
going to an amusement park
being sick
eating food from the school cafeteria
being picked to be on a team
reading a book
going to prison
forgetting homework
winning a game

What You Say "Circumstances like these often make us happy or sad. Paul was in prison, a situation that would make most people sad. While he was in prison, Paul told the Philippian church to be joyful. Joyful! Paul was joyful because he was joined to Jesus. He knew that no matter what happened to him, he could still be joyful because Jesus had rescued him from sin and death. Encourage kids to use the remaining paper to draw a picture of what joy looks like. Who gives us joy?"

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, foam ball

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to stand in a circle.
- Show the memory verse poster and lead kids to read Philippians 1:20-21 aloud.
- Give a foam ball to one player in the circle.
- Explain that the player with the ball will say the first word in the key passage and then toss to ball to another player, who will say the next word, and so on until kids say the entire key passage and reference.
- Allow kids to refer to the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words.

What You Say "This is a bold statement made by Paul, but he could say this because he believed firmly in the love of Christ and trusted Him with his life."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Pray, asking God to draw kids to Jesus so they seek and find true joy only in Him.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to talk to their family about joy. Encourage a family member to share with the kids a time that they experienced joy and how they knew it was from God.