



THIS COULD BE THE YEAR...

Toddlers | January 12

OPENING

As kids arrive be sure they are engaged in an activity. For the next seven weeks, we will be talking about the different Fruits of the Spirit.

STORYTIME and SNACK

Gather kids at the table to eat snacks. Watch video *Slapstick Theater- Paul and Silas*. Talk about how God took care of them even in a hard place and how they sang and had joy. *Sing and dance to Rejoice in the Lord Always* by CJ and Friends.

BIBLE STORY

Galatians 5:22-24
Acts 16: 16-40
Philippians 4:4

KNOW

With Jesus we can experience joy even when hard things are happening.

DO

Ask Jesus to help you to have joy



THIS COULD BE THE YEAR...

3-5s | January 12

OPENING OPTIONS (first 20 minutes)

- Coloring or Table Activities
- Joy Fruit Loop Necklace: Color Joy medallion, string fruit loops on the string and tie it to wear.
- Paul and Silas Jail Craft: Color Paul and Silas in jail picture. Glue black strips across picture to show they are in jail.

BIBLE BOX

- About 20 minutes into the service, clean up and have kids select a carpet stump to sit on.
- Use the Bible Box story to tell the story with Bible Box props
- Pray together and head into snack time.

SNACK

- Gather kids at tables to eat snack
- Snack: Talk about our first choice is not always the best choice AND God's choice is always best!

CLOSING OPTIONS (as time allows after snack)

- Music video- Rejoice in the Lord Always- CJ and friends. Sing and dance together.
- Finish craft or coloring
- Free play

BIBLE STORY

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Bible Box | January 12

Hello! Thank you for coming to church today! Let's see what we have in our Bible Box today. Hmm, look at these - a picture of an apple - that's for LOVE. A picture of a tomato to remind me to be GENTLE. And a picture of cherries. I wonder why that's in our Bible Box? Place picture of cherries in front of you so children can see them.

I like cherries but sometimes they are sour! I get mad when I don't get a sweet one! That reminds me of a Bible story about Paul and Silas who did not get what they wanted but they learned to trust God and that made them happy!

Watch Saddleback video- Slapstick Theater- Paul and Silas.

Let's talk about what we saw in the video. Wherever they went, Paul and Silas told people about Jesus. Some people were happy to hear the good news (wave happy hands) but other people got mad (shake fists).

One day, a man did not like that Paul and Silas were telling people about Jesus. He told the police that they were saying bad things. Paul and Silas were put in jail but they did not know what they did wrong!

Paul and Silas were scared and did not know why they were in jail. Shake your head no. It was dark and smelly in the jail. Have children hold their nose and say "PEE-U!"

Paul and Silas trusted God and started singing and praying to God! They sang and prayed for a long time!

That night, there was an earthquake and the whole prison shook. Have children rock side to side. All at once, the doors flew open, and their chains fell off (put arms out and shake hands).

Hold up Bible; Paul and Silas could have been sad and mad that they were in jail. But they trusted God and God used them to tell even more people about Jesus. Hurray! (everyone pump arms in air)

Prayer: Thank you God for teaching us to be happy even when we don't get our way.



THIS COULD BE THE YEAR...

Kinder-1st Grade | January 12

OPENING OPTIONS (first 20 minutes)

- Coloring or Table Activities
- Fruit Matching Game
- Paul and Silas Jail Craft: Color Paul and Silas in jail picture. Glue black strips across picture to show they are in jail.
- Joy Fruit Loop Necklace: Color Joy medallion, string fruit loops on the string and tie it to wear.

LARGE GROUP MESSAGE and WORSHIP

- About 20 minutes into service, we will gather for a large group message and worship. Leave one leader in your room to set out goldfish.

SMALL GROUP- Immediately following Large Group Teaching.

- When was a time that you were very joyful?
- When was a time that it was hard to be joyful?
- How did Paul and Silas get thrown in jail? (They cast out an evil spirit out of a girl. The girl was free, but her owners were made that they couldn't make money off her anymore, so they got thrown in jail)
- What happened while they were in jail? (About midnight they were singing and praising God- not what I'd be doing in jail! And then there was an earthquake, and all their chains fell off)
- Did Paul and Silas run out of jail? (They could have run right out but they didn't. They stayed and were able to tell many people about Jesus)
- How were Paul and Silas so joy filled in jail? (The obvious church answer is Jesus but help them to think about how they really could be joy filled. I likely would not have been that way. But they completely trusted and knew Jesus would take care of them whether they got out or not)
- Paul wrote Philippians while he was in jail. He wanted to encourage the Philippians and us and us that we can find joy even when things are hard. Read Philippians 4:4-7. What do these verses tell us about finding joy? (Help them to think about how to always pray and ask God when things are hard. Pray together to find joy in hard situations)

CLOSING (optional)

- Finish craft or games
- Game: Descriptive Word Game: We will play one round of this during the teaching time so you will know how it works. Divide into two teams. Select one volunteer from each team. Allow them to draw a word from the stack. The two kids chosen take turns saying a descriptive word for the main word until someone stalls and can't think of one. The other team gets a point. Use white boards to keep score if you chose to. Select new volunteers and play another round.

BIBLE STORY

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2nd-3rd | January 12

OPENING OPTIONS (first 20 minutes)

- Coloring or Table Activities
- Fruit Matching Game
- Joy Fruit Loop Necklace: Color Joy medallion, string fruit loops on the string and tie it to wear.

LARGE GROUP MESSAGE and WORSHIP

- About 20 minutes into service, we will gather for a large group message and worship.

SMALL GROUP- Immediately following Large Group Teaching.

- When was a time that you were very joyful?
- When was a time that it was hard to be joyful?
- How did Paul and Silas get thrown in jail? (They cast out an evil spirit out of a girl. The girl was free, but her owners were made that they couldn't make money off her anymore, so they got thrown in jail)
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CLOSING (optional)

- Finish craft or games
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3rd | January 12

OPENING OPTIONS (first 20 minutes)

- Coloring or Table Activities
- Fruit Matching Game
- Joy Fruit Loop Necklace: Color Joy medallion, string fruit loops on the string and tie it to wear.

LARGE GROUP MESSAGE and WORSHIP

- About 20 minutes into service, we will gather for a large group message and worship.

SMALL GROUP- Immediately following Large Group Teaching.

- When was a time that you were very joyful?
- When was a time that it was hard to be joyful?
- How did Paul and Silas get thrown in jail? (They cast out an evil spirit out of a girl. The girl was free, but her owners were made that they couldn't make money off her anymore, so they got thrown in jail)
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4th-5th | January 12

OPENING OPTIONS (first 20 minutes)

- Coloring or Table Activities
- Fruits of the Spirit Folding Craft Sticks: The craft sticks are already put together. Kids can color cut out each fruit and glue it on sticks (see sample). Talk about which fruit might be the hardest for them (or the easiest).

LARGE GROUP MESSAGE and WORSHIP

- About 20 minutes into service, we will gather for a large group message and worship.

SMALL GROUP- Immediately following Large Group Teaching.

- When was a time that you were very joyful?
- When was a time that it was hard to be joyful?
- How did Paul and Silas get thrown in jail? (They cast out an evil spirit out of a girl. The girl was free, but her owners were made that they couldn't make money off her anymore, so they got thrown in jail)
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CLOSING (optional)

- Finish craft or games
- Game: Descriptive Word Game: We will play one round of this during the teaching time so you will know how it works. Divide into two teams. Select one volunteer from each team. Allow them to draw a word from the stack. The two kids chosen take turns saying a descriptive word for the main word until someone stalls and can't think of one. The other team gets a point. Use white boards to keep score if you chose to. Select new volunteers and play another round.

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