



JOY

Bright Sparks

IGNITE

DNA

# Introduction

- ▶ In this session we are going to be thinking about joy! Joy is more than happiness and we can still feel joy even when things aren't going the way we want them to. We will be looking at the story of Paul and Silas found in the book of Acts in the Bible.
- ▶ The session has a number of activities designed to be carried out together as a family and is suitable for all ages of children and young people.
- ▶ Any materials you need should be found in your house and should not require you to go anywhere.
- ▶ Enjoy, and God bless you as you use these resources at home.
- ▶ So let's begin as we always do....Hands up for news time!

# NEWS TIME!



SHARE YOUR NEWS  
OF THE WEEK



WHAT DO YOU WANT  
TO THANK GOD FOR?



HOW HAS SOMEONE  
HELPED YOU?

# Games - Make 'Em Laugh & Gargling Delight

- ▶ Two games to choose from this week or play them both.

## Make 'Em Laugh:

- ▶ Get one person to sit on a chair in front of the rest of the family. Take it in turns to try and make the person sitting on the chair laugh (no physical contact allowed). If you succeed, it's your turn to sit on the chair.

## Gargling Delight:

- ▶ Ask for a willing volunteer... give them a glass of water and an apron (have a bowl on standby just in case...) and ask them to gargle a well know tune. Everyone else has to 'name that tune'! Whoever guesses the tune correctly takes the places of the gargler.

# Bible Story - Paul & Silas are put in jail

## Acts 16:16-40

- ▶ Get a piece of paper and divide it into eight sections.
- ▶ Read each part of the story on the next two pages and after each part draw a picture about what is happening. This isn't an art competition - stick figures are not only allowed but positively encouraged!
- ▶ For each part of the story, think about what emotions each person would be feeling.
- ▶ How would you have felt if you were one of the people in the story? Would you have acted the same way they do?

# Bible Story - Paul & Silas are put in jail

## Acts 16:16-40

**PART 1:** <sup>16</sup> One day on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl. She had a spirit in her that gave her the power to tell the future. By doing this she made a lot of money for her owners. <sup>17</sup> The girl followed Paul and the rest of us and kept yelling, “These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how to be saved.” <sup>18</sup> This went on for several days. Finally, Paul got so upset that he turned and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I order you to leave this girl alone!” At once the evil spirit left her.

**PART 2:** <sup>19</sup> When the girl’s owners realized that they had lost all chances for making more money, they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them into court. <sup>20</sup> They told the officials, “These Jews are upsetting our city! <sup>21</sup> They are telling us to do things we Romans are not allowed to do.” <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack on Paul and Silas. Then the officials tore the clothes off the two men and ordered them to be beaten with a whip.

**PART 3:** <sup>23</sup> After they had been badly beaten, they were put in jail, and the jailer was told to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> The jailer did as he was told. He put them deep inside the jail and chained their feet to heavy blocks of wood.

**PART 4:** <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, while the other prisoners listened. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the jail to its foundations. The doors opened, and the chains fell from all the prisoners.

# Bible Story - Paul & Silas are put in jail

## Acts 16:16-40

**PART 5:** <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw that the doors were open, he thought that the prisoners had escaped. He pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! No one has escaped.”

**PART 6:** <sup>29</sup> The jailer asked for a torch and went into the jail. He was shaking all over as he knelt down in front of Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> After he had led them out of the jail, he asked, “What must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They replied, “Have faith in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved! This is also true for everyone who lives in your home.”

**PART 7:** <sup>32</sup> Then Paul and Silas told him and everyone else in his house about the Lord. <sup>33</sup> While it was still night, the jailer took them to a place where he could wash their cuts and bruises. Then he and everyone in his home were baptized. <sup>34</sup> They were very glad that they had put their faith in God. After this, the jailer took Paul and Silas to his home and gave them something to eat.

**PART 8:** <sup>35</sup> The next morning the officials sent some police with orders for the jailer to let Paul and Silas go. <sup>36</sup> The jailer told Paul, “The officials have ordered me to set you free. Now you can leave in peace.” <sup>37</sup> But Paul told the police, “We are Roman citizens,<sup>[d]</sup> and the Roman officials had us beaten in public without giving us a trial. They threw us into jail. Now do they think they can secretly send us away? No, they cannot! They will have to come here themselves and let us out.” <sup>38</sup> When the police told the officials that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, the officials were afraid. <sup>39</sup> So they came and apologized. They led them out of the jail and asked them to please leave town. <sup>40</sup> But Paul and Silas went straight to the home of Lydia, where they saw the Lord’s followers and encouraged them. Then they left.

# Discussion - Joy or Happiness?

- ▶ The story of Paul and Silas in jail shows us that we can still be joyful and trust that God will look after us even if bad, and seemingly unjust, things are happening.
- ▶ The difference between joy and happiness is that when we feel happy it is because of a specific thing and it might not last very long if something happens to make us unhappy, but joy lasts even when things go wrong because it is associated with knowing God's love.
- ▶ On the following page there are a list of things. Which ones bring joy and which bring happiness? Why?
- ▶ Maybe there is something else that brings you joy or happiness. Tell someone about a time you felt joyful or happy. Thank God for that time.

# Discussion - Joy or happiness?

- ▶ Winning a football game.
- ▶ Having a lot of money.
- ▶ Going to a birthday party.
- ▶ Being part of a family.
- ▶ It is snowing.
- ▶ Being good at something.
- ▶ Knowing that God loves you.
- ▶ Enjoying watching nature.
- ▶ Having new clothes.
- ▶ Knowing that you look nice.
- ▶ Looking forward to a holiday.
- ▶ Feeling healthy.
- ▶ Talking to God.
- ▶ Having God with you all the time.
- ▶ Watching TV.
- ▶ Going to the park.
- ▶ Having a good best friend.
- ▶ Your team wins the Premiership.
- ▶ Trusting God to take care of everything.

# Craft - Let's go fly a kite

Equipment - straws/lollypop sticks/pencils, sellotape, paper/tissue paper, glue, string/twine/wool. (If you don't have any of the items listed you might have to be creative with what you have around the house. Maybe use a cut up cereal box instead of straws and a plastic bag instead of paper.)

- ▶ Use the straws (or alternative) to make a frame for the kite - four straws in a cross shape make a skeleton for the traditional diamond shaped kite, but you might want to be more inventive with yours!
- ▶ Use string and sellotape to fasten the frame straws in place.
- ▶ Make the body of the kite out of paper (or alternative). The body can be decorated with pen, patterns cut out of paper and stuck on, and tissue paper streamers. Maybe write the word JOY on your kite.
- ▶ Using glue and sellotape, fix the body of the kite onto the skeleton frame, and add a ball of string (or alternative) so that the kite can be flown.

Christian joy is based on the fact that we know God and know He will always be with us. This knowledge helps us to keep going even when bad things happen - it keeps us joyful deep down.

When you fly your kite, this is a picture of Christian joy - the kite stays up in the wind because the person flying it holds it safely. Christians stay “up” because God holds them. Joy is anchored in our faith in God, just as a kite is anchored in our hands.

# Prayer

**Prayer – talking and listening to God**

**Sorry for the things I've  
done wrong this week....**

**Thank you for.....**

**Do you have a  
question for God?**

**Is God saying  
anything to you?**

**Please help me next  
week when I.....**

# Musical Worship

Express your joy to God by listening or singing along to one or all of these songs (videos found on the church website Sunday Club online page).

Maybe you could think up some dance moves or actions. Find something to use as a shaker or drum and use that as part of your expression of joy.

Joy of the Lord (particularly suitable for younger viewers)

May the God of Hope - Doug Horley

Joy of the Lord - Rend Collective

Happy Day - Tim Hughes

# Memory Verse

- ▶ Write Nehemiah 8:10 on a piece of paper or get an adult to write it for you.  
“For the joy of the Lord is your strength”
- ▶ Decorate the memory verse using bright colours.
- ▶ Stick the memory verse on your window for others to see as they pass your house.
  
- ▶ Alternatively, find a photo of the verse online and share the verse on social media, or use it as your phone background photo to remind you every time you use your phone.

# Reflection

- ▶ What was the Bible story about today?
- ▶ What was your favourite part of today's session?
- ▶ How are you going to be joyful this week?

- ▶ Prayer to end:

Thank you God for our time together learning about joy. Help us to be joyful this week and know that even when things are difficult your joy is our strength. Thank you for loving us and looking after us. AMEN!

Something extra:

Why not find out about a missionary sharing God's joy in difficult situations?

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/>