

“The Night The Jailhouse Rocked” - Lesson 3

“I Want To Be Free”

Main Focus:

God can use our bad situation
to bless someone else



Power Verse:

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

- Romans 8:28



Whatchagaddaknow:

God Can Use The Bad For Good!

LEADER'S INFO

Sometimes, bad things happen - even for Christians. Sometimes a bad situation can be really bad - and we feel like there is NOTHING good that can come from it. We feel like we're in a prison and there is no hope for good to come out of it.

In our Bible Story, we find the Apostle Paul and Silas in that very situation. They're in an actual prison and things are looking pretty bad - but God uses their bad for good, ultimately saving a whole family and setting Paul and Silas free from prison!

In this lesson, the children will learn that God can use the bad for good. If they are faithful to God during the bad times, others may be blessed!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“A Broken Record”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Wiggy Pop teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Imall Shookup”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Rock, Paper, Scissors”



Bible Story

“Paul and Silas Pt. 3”



Power Verse Video

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

- Romans 8:28



Call To Action

“I Want To Be Free!”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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Whatchagaddaknow:

“God Can Use The Bad For Good!”

Lesson 3 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 3 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Imall Shookup” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Rock, Paper, Scissors” Graphic

Bible Story

- “Paul and Silas Pt. 3” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 3 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “I Want To Be Free” Graphics
- A Frozen Food Item In The Box
- A Microwave-Safe Plate
- A Fork
- A Microwave
- Potholders

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Print Piece
- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers
- Bingo Game Card Print Piece
- Bingo Calling Card Print Piece
- GOOD Print Piece
- Bowl
- Scissors
- Large Dry-Erase Board
- Dry-Erase Markers
- Eraser

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Offering Time

Game Time!

“Rock, Paper, Scissors”

Bible Story

“Paul and Silas Pt. 3”

Power Verse Video

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Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Welcome back to our series called “The Night The Jailhouse Rocked.” It’s all about a very important event in the Bible that happened to the Apostle Paul and his missionary partner, Silas.

Have you ever had something bad happen to you? *(allow response)* Maybe you tripped and fell, lost your favorite toy, or got in trouble for something that wasn’t even your fault. It doesn’t feel good when bad things happen, does it? *(allow response)*

Sometimes, when things go wrong, it’s easy to feel like everything is falling apart. But did you know that God can take the bad things in our lives and turn them into something good? It’s true! Even when we don’t understand what’s happening, God has a bigger plan.

Today, we’re going to learn how Paul and Silas went through something really tough, but God used it for something amazing! But first, check this video out...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 3”)

Leader: Wow! Isn’t that incredible? God worked everything out so that the broken record - which seemed like a horrible thing - led them to be able to go buy an entire collection. What a blessing!

Sometimes, when we go through hard times, we only focus on how bad it feels. But God is always working behind the scenes, turning our troubles into something beautiful. Today, you’re going to learn how you can trust God even when life doesn’t make sense.

But before we do that, we need to find out... “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Imall Shookup” *(He is an Elvis impersonator who loves to incorporate some of Elvis’s phrases and song titles into what he is trying to say. He always has funky dance moves to try out and tries to perfect his Elvis accent.)*

Imall: *(Enters very dramatically)* Hi, hello, how ya doin’? Okay now that’s out of the way, I have a huge problem! Somebody, please, help me! *(Grabs the Leader’s shoulders, shaking them wildly)*

Leader: What?! What’s wrong, Imall Shookup?

Imall: I am in the WORST crisis of my life! I can’t even talk about it. It’s too painful! *(Turns away dramatically, covering his face.)*

Leader: Okay, well... maybe we can help. What happened?

Imall: Thank you, thank you very much! It’s... my hair.

Leader: Your... hair?

Imall: YES! My glorious, magnificent, perfectly sculpted hair! You see, I was fixing it up just right, adding my usual gallon of hair gel, and—DISASTER STRUCK.

Leader: Oh no...

Imall: Oh, YES. I was just about to go full rock-star mode when—BAM! A FLY flew into my hair!

Leader: ...A fly?

Imall: A FLY. And now it’s stuck. FOREVER. *(Dramatically runs his hands through his hair trying to get it out)*

Leader: Okay, okay, calm down—

Imall: Oh, but it gets worse! I tried to get it out. I tried using more gel—no good! I tried to shake it loose nothing! Now I’m just a guy with a fly! It’s stuck in there, and I’m stuck with it in my hair! Neither of us is happy!

Leader: Wow. That is quite a problem.

Imall: I knew you’d understand. So please, help me! Set this fly free!

Leader: Well, you know, today’s lesson is about being set free.

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Imall: Wait... You mean you've got the secret to freedom?!

Leader: Not exactly the kind of freedom you're talking about... but yeah! Today, we're talking about how God can set us free!

Imall: Like from flies in my hair?

Leader: Not exactly... More like bad situations.

Imall: Ohhh, so like when Paul and Silas were stuck in prison—locked up, chained down, and totally trapped.

Leader: Yes! Instead of panicking, they trusted God. They praised Him, and He set them free. But here's the cool part—He used that whole situation for something GOOD!

Imall: Whoa, whoa, whoa. So even when things go wrong, God can turn it into something amazing?!

Leader: Exactly!

Imall: Hold the jokebox! That means there's still hope for me?! Well, then I am NOT leaving until I find out how I can be set free! *(Strikes a dramatic pose)*

Leader: That's great! We're going to learn all about how God frees us and uses even bad things for His plan.

Imall: OHHH, BABY! That means this fly situation might just be a part of my destiny!

Leader: Uh... sure?

Imall: Well, count me in! And in the meantime... *(Combs his hair with his fingers)* ...I'll just call this fly my new backup singer! His name's Buzz.

Leader: Well... I hope he serves you well! But right now, it's time to learn more about our lesson.

Imall: YES! I am ready to break free, learn some truth, and maybe finally get Buzz outta my hair! *(Does a spin move)* My name is Imall Shookup! Thank you, thank you very much!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Rock, Paper, Scissors”

Items Needed For Game:

None



Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to compete in this game *(or have everyone play!)*



How To Play:

This is a “tournament” of the classic game. Rock beats scissors. Scissors beats paper. Paper beats rock. Have one boy and one girl go up against each other. The winner advances to the next round, while the “loser” sits down. This continues until there is only ONE player left. The last player left wins for their team.

(If you play with your entire group, have them partner up and go against each other. At the end of each round, you will have the winners find a new partner and continue this way until there is only one winner remaining!)



Bible Story

“Paul & Silas Pt. 3”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Acts 16:25-34; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today, our Bible Story is the conclusion of Paul and Silas. You remember how they were beaten and thrown into prison for doing good and preaching about Jesus. They were in the middle of one of their darkest times, but they still decided to worship God. They were singing praises to God because they knew he would take care of them!

And that’s exactly what happened! While Paul and Silas were singing songs to God, the other prisoners were listening to them. And then - suddenly there was a violent earthquake! It was so big that the ground began to shake, rattle, and roll. The prison doors flew open and everyone’s chains came loose! WOW!

When this happened the jailer woke up and started freaking out! He saw the prison doors were opened, and he just knew that everyone must have escaped and that he was about to be in a LOT of trouble. He was so freaked out that he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But before he could, Paul shouted out, (*show pic*) “Don’t do it! We are all still here!”

The jailer was so relieved that he picked up a torch for light, ran in to Paul and Silas’ cell, and fell to his knees, asking them, (*show pic*) “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Paul and Silas replied to him and said, (*show pic*) “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” Then they preached about God’s love right there to the jailer and the other prisoners. What an amazing situation! They were in prison for preaching about Jesus and now the jailer was asking them how to be saved and to preach to him about Jesus! But wait - there’s more!

That night, the jailer took Paul and Silas to his house and helped them wash their wounds and get cleaned up. While Paul and Silas were at his house, they baptized everyone in the man’s family. Then they gathered together to eat a meal and celebrate that the whole family had been saved! (*show pic*)

Today, in your lesson you are going to learn that God can use your bad situations to bring about something good. Just like he used Paul and Silas’ bad situation in prison to bless the jailer and ended up saving his whole family! It’s going to be amazing!





Call To Action

“I Want To Be Free!”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; a frozen food item in the box; a microwave-safe plate; a fork; a microwave; pot-holders

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “I Want To Be Free!”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Have you ever gone to the grocery store with your mom or dad and gone down the frozen food aisle? You see a box that has a beautiful picture of tasty-looking food, and you get excited. *(hold up food box)* Your mom or dad buys it and takes it home, and when you get ready to eat dinner, she pulls it out of the box and it looks disgusting! *(hold up food outside of the box)* That’s not what the picture looked like at all! Gross! Suddenly, what you expected to be a great mealtime, has turned out to be terrible! You can’t eat that! Gross - just look at it! What a BAD situation!

But guess what? Your mom can help you! She can use that nasty looking food to create a great meal! You may see it as a gross looking, frozen lump of food, but your mom has a different perspective. She sees the potential for good! All you have to do is put that BAD looking food in the microwave for 2 minutes *(put food on a microwave-safe plate in the microwave and cook for 2 minutes - keep talking while it cooks)* and everything changes! The BAD is used for GOOD!

That’s how life is sometimes! We see something, and we think it’s the worst situation ever - NOTHING good can come from it! You move to a new school and NOTHING good can come from that - you’ll never have friends. You’ll never catch up on your homework - you’re DOOMED! You get in big trouble for bad grades in school and get grounded and NOTHING good can come from that! You’ll never have any fun. You’ll be bored the whole time - this is the WORST! Sometimes that’s how we feel - like we’re in prison and there’s NOTHING good that can come from it, but see...

Sometimes We Misunderstand The Reason For Our Trouble *(slide)*



Sometimes good really can come from our “prison” or our bad situation. We see it as one thing, but maybe the reason we’re in that “prison” is completely different. Maybe the reason you moved to a new school is not so that you’ll never make any friends or catch up on your homework. Maybe it’s so you can make a new friend.

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Call To Action (Continued)

Maybe there's a kid at your new school that needs a friend, too, and God put you there to be their friend and show them about the love of Jesus. Or maybe the reason you're grounded isn't because God wants you to be miserable. Maybe you've been given a chance to read your Bible instead of going out to play or playing video games. Maybe God wants to show you something or teach you something from His Word. Maybe you've misunderstood the reason for your trouble. You think it's all bad, but...

God Can Use The Bad For Good (slide)



Let's check on our food in the microwave. (*open the microwave and, using pot-holders, remove the food if it is finished - if not, stall until it's finished - it needs to look tasty*) Look at that! THAT looks GOOD! Remember how it looked before - it was BAD. It looked GROSS! But now - it's GOOD! (*use the fork and take a bite!*) Now, did the food change? Is that different food than the one before? (*allow response*) No! It's the same! Same situation - but what you saw as BAD is now GOOD!

That's what God can do when you are in a “prison” of your own - a bad situation. God can take it and make it good! Remember, Paul and Silas? They were in a really bad situation! They were in an actual prison and were beaten. It was dark and scary, but God used their bad situation for good! The earthquake came and the jailer begged them to teach him about God. Their bad situation? Prison, beaten, dark and scary... The good that came from it? The jailer and his whole family were saved, and Paul and Silas were set free from prison! Because they were faithful, God used their bad situation for good! That's our last lesson!

If We Are Faithful, Others May Be Blessed (slide)



Remember, Paul and Silas were faithful to God and worshiped him even in their darkest times - even while they were in the pits of their prison. And as a result, other prisoners listened in and heard about their faith in God - and the jailer and his whole family were saved! What a blessing!

When we face prisons and bad situations in life, we must be faithful to God. We can't give up and throw a fit. We can't whine and complain and say, “God, this is TOO bad! There's NO WAY anything good can come from this! I QUIT!” No - instead, we must stay faithful. We have to remember that God can use the bad for good, and we must thank Him for that and worship Him and always stay faithful!

Altar Response: (*play soft music*)

Ask for any children who are facing a “prison” or bad situation in their own life to respond. Pray that they would see that God can use the bad for good. Pray that they would see the reason for their prison and stay faithful to God, no matter what. Pray that others would be blessed because of their faithfulness in the bad times.



REWIND!

Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

“God Can Use The Bad For Good!”

2. Did the prisoners leave after the earthquake?

Answer: No

3. Who came to Paul and Silas’ cell to be saved?

Answer: The Jailer

4. True or False: Paul told the jailer he could not be saved.

Answer: False

5. Who did Paul and Silas help to be saved as well?

Answer: The Jailer’s Family

6. According to our lesson today, “Sometimes We Misunderstand The Reason For Our _____.”

Answer: Trouble

7. According to our lesson today, “God Can Use The _____ For Good.”

Answer: Bad

8. According to our lesson today, “If We Are _____, Others May Be Blessed.”

Answer: Faithful

9. True or False: God can use our “prisons” to help others.

Answer: True

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Romans 8:28