

Small Group Experience

LESSON 3 - “I Want To Be Free!”



Whatchagaddaknow?:

“God Can Use The Bad For Good!”



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

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Bible Story Print Piece (provided; print one per kid)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before the small group session, ensure you have printed the Bible Story Print Pieces and reviewed the story to facilitate discussion effectively. Additionally, gather all necessary classroom materials. As the session begins, distribute the Bible Story Print Pieces and writing tools to each student. Encourage them to read the story in small groups, marking at least four points they find significant or have questions about. Following their reading, prompt the students to share their observations and questions with the group. Engage in a discussion about the story, elaborating on key points and addressing any gaps in understanding.

Say- Can bad events lead to good experiences? We’re going to talk about that today! Let’s start by taking another look at a story in the Bible from Acts 16. As you read, look for at least four key points that catch your eye and underline them on your page. Once everyone’s done, we’ll share what we’ve found.

-Allow time for the kids to read the story-

Say- Thank you for reading the story! Now, it’s time to share your thoughts and discuss it together.

Ask- Who would like to share?

-Allow time for responses and discuss thoughts with the group. Continue this way until everyone gets a chance to share and the story has been thoroughly reviewed. Guide discussion and fill in any gaps in the storyline as needed-

Ask- What is your biggest takeaway from this story?

-Allow time for responses; discuss thoughts with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Bingo Game Cards Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)
- * Bingo Calling Cards Print Piece (*provided; print one set*)
- * GOOD Print Pieces (*enough for each kid to have plenty*)
- * Bowl
- * Scissors (*several pair for the group to share*)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before the small group begins, print the Bingo Calling Cards Print Piece and place them in a bowl. Once activity time begins, give each child a Bingo Game Card Print Piece and a sheet of GOOD Print Pieces. Allow them to cut out their GOOD pieces to use as markers during the game. When everyone is ready, begin the game by drawing and calling out one Bingo Calling Card at a time. If a player has the matching letter and number on their Bingo card, they should cover that space with a GOOD piece. The first player to complete a full row—horizontally or vertically—with GOOD pieces wins! This game reinforces the lesson concept in a fun and engaging way and can be played multiple times as time allows.

Say- It's time to play Bingo—but with a twist! Each of you will get a bingo game card and a set of GOOD pieces. First, cut out your GOOD pieces and place them in a pile so they're ready for the game.

-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

Say- Hold up—there's one BAD thing I have to tell you. Your Bingo card is covered in BAD stuff! Whoops! But don't worry—your job is to turn the BAD into GOOD, and here's how.

I will randomly call out a letter and a number. If you have that letter/number combination on your card, you may place a GOOD piece on that space. The first player to complete an entire row—horizontally or vertically—with GOOD pieces wins! Are you ready to turn bad into good? Let's play!

-Play Bad To Good Bingo. This can be played multiple rounds as time allows-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Large dry-erase board
- * Dry-erase markers
- * Eraser

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before the small group begins, review the lesson content and gather all classroom materials. Group sharing empowers kids to engage in meaningful discussions and connect the lesson concepts with their own experiences. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

Say- Paul and Silas were in a tough situation. They were beaten and thrown in jail just for telling people about Jesus! That sounds pretty bad, right? But instead of complaining, they prayed and sang praises to God. And because they stayed faithful, God did something amazing. We might never be thrown in jail for following Jesus, but we all go through tough times.

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Ask- What are some bad situations we might face in life?

-Allow time for responses. Write their answers on the board-

Ask- How do you feel when you face bad situations like these?

-Write their answers on the board-

Say- Wow, looking at this board, we can see that bad situations come in many forms, and they bring a lot of tough emotions. But guess what? Just like with Paul and Silas, God can take these bad things and use them for good! Paul and Silas could have given up in jail, but instead, they stayed faithful—they kept trusting and worshiping God even in their bad situation. Because of their faithfulness, the jailer and his whole family came to know Jesus!

Ask- How can we stay faithful to God when facing bad situations like the ones on the board?

-As kids respond, erase one “bad” answer at a time and replace it with a “good” response.
Examples: Instead of feeling lonely, remember that God is always with me. Instead of being angry, pray and ask God for peace. Instead of complaining, find something to be thankful for-

Say- Our board is starting to look a lot better! It’s amazing how when we choose to trust God, He can bring good things out of even the hardest situations.

Ask- What good things could God do through your faithfulness?

-Write their responses on the board as you erase the remaining bad ones-

Say- Just as Paul and Silas’s faithfulness helped the jailer and his family come to Jesus, your faithfulness can help others, too! When people see you trusting God in hard times, they may be encouraged to do the same.

Prayer Time

Say- Great job discussing today! Now, let’s take some time to pray. God intends to use the bad times you will face for good. Our job is to remain faithful to Him even when life gets tough. Let’s pray and ask God to help us remain faithful in the bad and to use it for His good!**-Allow time for a volunteer to pray.**
If no one volunteers, you can lead the prayer-

Pray

Closing

Say- Paul and Silas were preaching the Good News when they got arrested—that was bad. They were beaten—that was bad. They were chained up and locked in prison—that was bad. Everywhere they turned, something bad was happening. But through it all, they stayed faithful. There were so many moments when they could have given up. They could have looked to heaven, shaken their fists, and shouted, “We quit! This is too hard!” But they didn’t. They chose to trust God, even when things looked hopeless. And because of their faithfulness, God not only set them free—He used their story to change lives. The jailer and his entire family came to know Jesus! What started as a terrible situation turned into something amazing. That’s how God works—He can take what’s bad and use it for good! Maybe you’ve faced tough times, too. Maybe you’re in one right now. But don’t quit! Stay faithful, trust God’s timing, and let Him turn your bad into good. You never know how God might use your story to help someone else. God can use your BAD for GOOD! Thanks for coming today. I can’t wait to see you again soon!

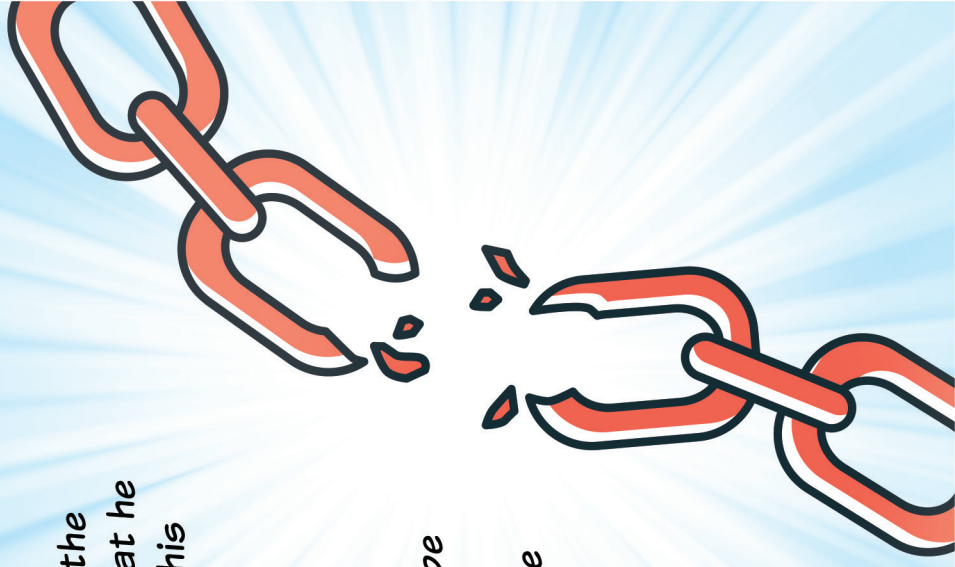
Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison for doing good and preaching about Jesus. They were in the middle of one of their darkest times, but they still decided to worship God. They were singing praises to God because they knew He would take care of them!

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!

When this happened, the jailer woke up and started freaking out! He saw the prison doors open, and he 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, "Don't do it! We are all still here!"

The jailer was so relieved that he picked up a torch for light, ran to Paul and Silas' cell, and fell to his knees, asking them, "Sir, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas said to him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Then, they preached about God's love right there to the jailer and the other prisoners.

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 home, 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!




BINGO

15 BAD	20 BAD	1 BAD	10 BAD	19 BAD
25 BAD	44 BAD	40 BAD	18 BAD	63 BAD
37 BAD	60 BAD	 FREE	13 BAD	30 BAD
33 BAD	5 BAD	27 BAD	48 BAD	53 BAD
21 BAD	70 BAD	57 BAD	68 BAD	56 BAD

BINGO

15 <i>BAD</i>	20 <i>BAD</i>	40 <i>BAD</i>	13 <i>BAD</i>	19 <i>BAD</i>
37 <i>BAD</i>	5 <i>BAD</i>	1 <i>BAD</i>	18 <i>BAD</i>	30 <i>BAD</i>
33 <i>BAD</i>	60 <i>BAD</i>	 <i>FREE</i>	10 <i>BAD</i>	63 <i>BAD</i>
21 <i>BAD</i>	44 <i>BAD</i>	27 <i>BAD</i>	48 <i>BAD</i>	53 <i>BAD</i>
25 <i>BAD</i>	70 <i>BAD</i>	57 <i>BAD</i>	68 <i>BAD</i>	56 <i>BAD</i>

BINGO

21 BAD	60 BAD	1 BAD	10 BAD	30 BAD
25 BAD	44 BAD	57 BAD	18 BAD	63 BAD
37 BAD	20 BAD	 FREE	48 BAD	19 BAD
15 BAD	70 BAD	40 BAD	13 BAD	53 BAD
33 BAD	5 BAD	27 BAD	68 BAD	56 BAD

BINGO

15 <i>BAD</i>	5 <i>BAD</i>	57 <i>BAD</i>	18 <i>BAD</i>	53 <i>BAD</i>
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B15 **I**20 **N**1 **G**10 **O**19

B25 **I**44 **N**40 **G**18 **O**63

B37 **I**60 **G**13 **O**30

B33 **I**5 **N**27 **G**48 **O**53

B21 **I**70 **N**57 **G**68 **O**56

