

“The Night The Jailhouse Rocked” - Lesson 1

“Jailhouse Rock”

Main Focus:

We must choose to worship God even when times are tough.



Power Verse:

“I will praise the Lord at all times.
I will constantly speak his praises.”
- Psalm 34:1



Whatchagaddaknow:

“No Matter What I’m Going
Through, I Will Praise The Lord!”

LEADER’S INFO

Life brings challenges, even for Christians! Jesus reminded us, “In this world, you will have trouble.” But we don’t have to give up when hard times come our way. He also said, “Take heart! I have overcome the world!” That’s a reason to rejoice and worship God for His faithfulness, even in our darkest moments.

In today’s Bible story, we’ll see an incredible example of this with the Apostle Paul and Silas. Despite facing a truly awful day—being arrested, beaten, and thrown into a dark prison—they didn’t let their circumstances stop them from worshiping. Confident that God would care for them, they began singing songs of praise.

Through this lesson, children will discover the importance of worshiping God, even when life feels hard.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“To Grandmother’s House We Go”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Wiggy Pop teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Imall Shookup”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Name That Worship Tune”



Bible Story

“Paul and Silas Pt. 1”



Power Verse Video

“I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.”

- Psalm 34:1



Call To Action

“Jailhouse Rock”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must choose to worship God even when times are tough.



Power Verse:

“I will praise the Lord at all times.
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Whatchagaddaknow:

“No Matter What I’m Going
Through, I Will Praise The Lord!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - 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
- “Name That Worship Tune” Graphic
- CD Player/MP3 Player
- Sound System (*optional*)
- Several Worship Songs

Bible Story

- “Paul and Silas Pt. 1” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Jailhouse Rock” Graphics
- A Large Flashlight
- The Power Verse Graphic

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bibles
- Scrap Paper
- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers
- Smartphone
- Speaker
- Psalm 34:1 Print Piece

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Game Time!

“Name That Worship Tune”

Bible Story

“Paul and Silas Pt. 1”

Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

“Jailhouse Rock”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a new 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.

I have a question for you. Have you ever had something you had to do, but you just didn’t want to do it? Maybe it was a test you had to take or maybe it was a chore your parents wanted you to do. When you are in a situation you really don’t want to be in, it can be hard to keep the right attitude, huh?

Today, we are going to learn about how to handle those moments in life when things aren’t going the way we planned. But first, check this video out...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: At first, he really didn’t want to go to his grandmother’s house, did he? He had to work on his attitude and make some definite changes in the way he was looking at things.

There are many times in life when things don’t go the way we planned. Rather than complain, fuss, and be upset about it, we have to learn to recognize that God has a plan - even when things aren’t going the way we planned.

God is worthy of our praise and worship even when life is tough. We must choose to worship Him, even when things don’t look good. Today, we are going to learn about a very good example of that from Paul and Silas in the Bible.

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 waving to the kids like they are his fans)* Hello! Hello! Thank you, thank you very much! It’s such an honor to be here today.

Leader: Um, hello... Could it be? Are you? Noooooooo! No way! Elvis has been gone for a loooooong time. But wow! You really got my attention. Who are you?

Imall: My name is *(does a spin move)* Imall Shookup! Thank you very much!

Leader: You’re shaken up? Do you need a doctor?

Imall: No, no. That’s my name. *(Spins again)* Imall.... Shookup! Thank you, thank you very much.

Leader: Umm... okay. What brings you here, Imall?

Imall: Well, I was wondering - do you have a peanut butter and banana sandwich on hand?

Leader: Gross! No, I’m afraid I don’t. *(To the kids)* Do any of you have a peanut butter and banana sandwich with you? I didn’t think so.

Imall: Bummer! I haven’t had one in about two hours.

Leader: That’s not that long. I may have another snack, but I’d have to look.

Imall: No, thank you very much. I have a strict diet. The banana and peanut butter keep my voice ready to go! ou never know when you’ll need to *(does a spin move)* break out in song.

Leader: I guess that’s true. Are you sure you are not related to Elvis Presley? You look like him, eat his favorite food, do fun dance moves, and sing.

Imall: Not that I know of. This is just my life. It’s fun, but a lot of people have made fun of me for it.

Leader: Some people are mean and hurt your feelings just because you do something different than them.

Imall: It is hurtful! Just the other night, I was writing a sad tune, but I couldn’t finish it because I was crying.

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Leader: I'm sorry, Imall. Sounds like you really were all shook up! I think today's lesson could really help you.

Imall: Really? Thank you! Thank you very much! But.. uh... how is it going to help me?

Leader: We're learning about how Paul and Silas got arrested for preaching about Jesus.

Imall: No way! That's not fair! Where are they? I'll go get 'em out. I can use my karate moves and bust them out of jail! *(Do some karate moves with Elvis-like sounds)*

Leader: That was a long time ago, like, way before Elvis was born. Today, we are telling the story of how it all happened.

Imall: Wow! They must have been really down and depressed. If I were them, I would've sung a sad tune and cried, just like the other day! It would've been tough, but that jailhouse would've been rockin'!

Leader: Their jailhouse rocked, too, but in a different way! While Paul and Silas were there, they sang and praised God. Our lesson will teach us how we can praise God, even in hard times.

Imall: So, instead of being all sad and crying, they were happy and singing to the Lord? I can dig that.

Leader: We should all “dig” that! Whatever that means...

Imall: Well, my fans are waiting. I have a private concert in my living room. My parents, grandma and little sister will be there. Oh, and my *(does a dance move)* teddy bear. I hope you kids learn a whole lot today! My name is Imall Shookup. Thank you, thank you very much!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Name That Worship Tune”

Items Needed For Game:

CD Player/MP3 player; Sound system (*optional*); Several worship songs
(*preferably songs that you do often in your services*)

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Preparation:

Choose an even number of songs to use for this game. Set them up in a
playlist so you can easily move from one song to the next.

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How To Play:

Choose three boys and three girls to participate in this game. Tell them that you are going
to play ten seconds of a popular worship song. They will have to take turns guessing the name
of the song (*or at least be able to sing a bit of the song to prove they know what song it is*).
The team that guesses the most songs correctly is declared the winning team.



Bible Story

“Paul & Silas Pt. 1”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; 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 16:16-25; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today, our Bible Story comes from the book of Acts, chapter 16. The Apostle Paul and Silas were with a large crowd of people preaching and were suddenly interrupted by a slave girl who was possessed by an evil spirit that allowed her to predict the future. She made a lot of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and Silas and the crowd around, shouting, (*show pic*) “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.”



This girl actually did this same thing over and over for many days in a row. Finally, Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, (*show pic*) “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you evil spirit, come out of her!” And at that very moment the evil spirit left her.



When this slave girl's owners found out that the evil spirit had left her and that she couldn't make them money by predicting the future anymore, they were angry! They took Paul and Silas to the authorities and said that they were causing huge problems in the city and breaking the laws!



Paul and Silas had not broken any laws. But the men were so angry with them, the entire crowd started joining in. They started to attack Paul and Silas, beating them up. The authorities ordered them to be thrown into prison.

The guard was commanded to watch them carefully. When he received those orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in stocks. (*show pic*) They were deep in the dungeon. It was dark and cold - it was a scary, uncomfortable place to be. Their hands and feet were locked up, and they were still in tons of pain from being beaten.

It would've been a great time to just sit down and cry. It would've been easy for them to say that God didn't care about them and give up...but that's not what they did! Instead, in the middle of the night, (*show pic*) they decided to pray and sing songs of praise and worship to God. It was so unexpected, the other prisoners began listen. The entire jailhouse rocked with the sound of praise to God! It was amazing!

In today's lesson, we're going to learn how important it is that when we face hard times, we shouldn't quit - but instead, we should turn our focus to God and praise Him. He is worthy - no matter what!



The “Jailhouse Rock” graphics; a large flashlight; the Power Verse graphic

Begin with the slide titled, “Jailhouse Rock”



- You wake up and bump your head on the headboard, only to stub your toe on the way to the bathroom.
- You wiggle your loose tooth a little too much with your toothbrush and your gums start bleeding.
- You realize your out of milk for your favorite cereal, so you have to eat toast instead.
- It's raining and while you're waiting at the bus stop, a big ol' van drives by and splashes a huge puddle of water all over you, soaking your favorite shirt.
- You get to school and realize you left your homework and end up getting a bad grade.
- It's still raining, so you can't go outside for recess.
- You finally get home, but dinner is meatloaf and brussel sprouts - EW!
- Your parent makes you go to bed early as punishment for your bad grade, and you stub the SAME toe on the way to bed!

Don't be surprised when
TRouble
COMES

Trouble WILL happen. Jesus told us in John 16:33, “In this world you will have trouble...” Bad days are going to come. Trouble at school, trouble at home, trouble with sickness, bad grades, bullies, etc. These things will happen because they are a part of life.

Paul and Silas were having a bad day in our Bible Story. Remember, they were just going along preaching about Jesus, doing the right thing - they even freed a girl from an evil spirit - when all of a sudden, their day took a turn for the worse! They faced lots of trouble! They were taken to the authorities, beaten really badly, and thrown

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Call To Action (Continued)

into a really dark prison! It was a really BAD day, but they expected it! They remembered Jesus saying, “In this world you will have trouble.” So they decided what you and I should decide when we face troubles....

Choose Not To Quit (slide)



We have to decide that we will never quit - even when we face really tough times! Even in your darkest times, you must decide that you will not quit! Remember John 16:33? Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble.” But there’s more to that verse! Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!”

How cool is that? Jesus didn’t say, “Take heart! I have overcome bad grades!” Or, “Take heart! I have overcome sickness!” Or even, “Take heart! I have overcome the bully at school!” No - Jesus said, “Take heart! I have overcome the WORLD!” That means Jesus has overcome EVERY trouble you could ever face! Jesus is bigger, stronger, smarter, and greater than anything we will ever face in life. And THAT is something to get excited about - even when you’re in the middle of trouble and dark times. In fact...

Even In Your Darkest Times - Worship God (slide)



(turn out the lights in the room) There are times in our lives when it feels so dark. You are facing lots of trouble, and it seem like there’s no hope! Even in your darkest times, choose to worship and praise God! Thank Him for being faithful to you - even in the dark times. When you do, it’s amazing what happens. (turn on the flashlight, revealing how much it lights up the darkness) As you praise God, hope starts to return to your heart. You start to realize that God hasn’t left you. He’s right there beside you. The more you praise, the more hope grows in your heart until...(turn the lights back on in the room) your whole attitude changes and God comes through with a miracle!

That’s exactly what Paul and Silas did! They were facing some really dark times, but they remembered that Jesus has overcome the world, and they worshiped right there in their prison! They praised God so loud, the entire jailhouse rocked with their praise!

When you face troubles, even in your darkest times, do what Paul and Silas did - worship God! Do exactly what our Power Verse says: (show Power Verse slide) “I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.” - Psalm 34:1.

Altar Response: (play soft music)

Pray that the children will not be surprised when troubles come, but instead they would decide not to quit and to worship God, even in their darkest times. Spend some time in praise and worship to God!



REWIND!

Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 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?

Answer: “No Matter What I’m Going Through, I Will Praise The Lord!”

2. What were the names of the two guys in our Bible Story?

Answer: Paul & Silas

3. What were Paul and Silas doing in the streets?

Answer: Preaching

4. Who did they encounter while preaching?

Answer: A Demon Possessed Girl

5. What happened to Paul and Silas?

Answer: They Were Thrown Into Prison

6. What did they begin to do while they were in prison?

Answer: Praise And Worship The Lord

7. According to our lesson today, “Don’t Be Surprised When _____ Comes.”

Answer: Trouble

8. According to our lesson today, “_____ Not To Quit.”

Answer: Choose

9. According to our lesson today, “Even In Your Darkest Times - _____ God.”

Answer: Worship

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 34:1