

# Small Group Experience

## LESSON 1 - “Jailhouse Rock”



### Whatchagaddaknow?:

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



### Power Verse:

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

- Psalm 34:1

## Retelling The Bible Story

### SUPPLY LIST:

- \* Bibles (one per group)
- \* Scrap paper
- \* Pencils, crayons, or pencils

### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

*Before the small group begins, familiarize yourself with the story so you can facilitate and guide discussion. To review the story, divide the kids into small groups and give each group a Bible, some scrap paper, and something to write with. Direct them to read Acts 16:16-25 aloud with their groups, discuss it together, and write any thoughts about the story on their scrap paper. Once the groups complete this task, let them share their thoughts on the story. Be prepared to lead the group in discussion, filling in any gaps in the storyline as needed.*

**Say-** Can you worship God anywhere, no matter what’s happening? Let’s look in the Bible to see if we can find answers! To begin, divide into small groups. Each group will receive a Bible so you can read Acts 16:16-25 aloud and discuss it together. Write any thoughts you have about the story on your paper.

**-Divide into groups and allow time for them to read the Bible story passage and discuss it together-**

**Ask-** What are your thoughts about this Bible passage?

**-Allow time for the groups to share their thoughts on the passage. Facilitate and guide discussion, ensuring key points are covered-**

**Say-** I really enjoy hearing your thoughts on this Bible story. Thank you for being willing to share!

**Ask-** Why were Paul and Silas able to worship even though they were in prison?

**-Allow time for response; discuss thoughts with the group-**

**Ask-** What did you learn from this story?

**-Allow time for response; discuss thoughts with the group-**

**Game/Activity****SUPPLY LIST:**

- \* Smartphone with a playlist created ahead of time
- \* Speaker to be used with the smartphone

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Before the small group begins, build a playlist on your smartphone of 5-8 short, familiar Christian or church-related songs that your students might know. Ensure your playlist is ready and you have a speaker (if needed) so everyone can hear. Test your phone and speaker to ensure everyone will hear the music clearly. Decide whether students will compete as individuals or in teams.*

**Say-** Paul and Silas had a song in their hearts, which reminds me of one of my favorite games. We're going to play a game called Name That Tune! I've got a playlist of some fun songs on my phone. I'll play a short clip of each song, and your job is to guess what it is. If you know it, raise your hand, and I'll call on you to guess. It will be fun to see who knows their tunes! Let's play!

**-Play Name That Tune-****Group Sharing****SUPPLY LIST:**

- \* Psalm 34: I Print Piece (provided; print one per kid)
- \* Pencils, crayons, or markers

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Before the small group begins, print the Psalm 34: I Print Pieces and gather all classroom materials. Group sharing aims to empower kids to engage in meaningful discussions and connect the lesson concepts with their own experiences. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.*

**Say-** Have you ever had a terrible day? What kinds of things make a day feel really tough?

**-Allow time for responses and group discussion-**

**Say-** Jesus told us in John 16:33 that trouble will happen in this world. He didn't say if trouble comes; He said when. So, when tough times come, we shouldn't be shocked. But even though Jesus warned us about trouble, He also gave us hope.

**Ask-** Does anyone remember what Jesus said at the end of John 16:33?

**-Allow time for responses-**

**Say-** Jesus said, "Take heart! Because I have overcome the world." That means no matter how bad life gets, Jesus is still in control. And because He wins in the end, we don't have to give up when life feels hard.

**Ask-** What are some ways people react when things don't go their way?

**-Allow time for responses and group discussion-**

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**Say-** It’s easy to want to quit when life is hard. But Paul and Silas made a choice: “We will not quit!” Even when they were hurting and locked in a dark prison, they didn’t give up. Instead, they did something unexpected.

**Ask-** What did Paul and Silas do while they were in prison? (Hint: Acts 16:25!)

**-Allow time for responses-**

**Say-** That’s right! They worshiped. They didn’t whine, they didn’t throw a pity party, and they didn’t sit there in silence feeling sorry for themselves. They prayed and sang praises to God.

**Ask-** Why do you think Paul and Silas worshiped in the middle of their worst moment?

**-Allow time for responses and group discussion-**

**Say-** Worship changes things and shifts our focus. Instead of staring at what’s wrong, worship reminds us of what’s right—God is still good, still in control, and still worthy of our praise.

**Ask-** Psalm 34:1 says, “I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.” What does it mean to praise God at all times?

**-Allow time for responses and group discussion-**

**Say-** It’s easy to worship when life is good. But what about when things are really, really hard? Like when you’re scared, sad, or when people treat you unfairly? That’s when worship takes faith. Paul and Silas didn’t praise God because they felt like it. They worshiped because they trusted God to take care of them, no matter how bad things got.

**Ask-** How do you think worshiping in tough times can help change how we feel?

**-Allow time for responses and group discussion-**

**Say-** Worship is powerful because it reminds us that we are not alone. No matter what we go through, God is there!

**Ask-** What are some ways we can worship God in our everyday lives, even when things aren’t going great?

**-Allow time for responses and group discussion-**

**Say-** Worship isn’t just about singing in church. It’s about living a life that honors God. When we keep praising and trusting Him no matter what, people will see our faith and be encouraged to do the same! I gave you a piece of paper with Psalm 34:1 and some blank space. Take some time and make a list of your favorite worship songs.

**-Allow time for the kids to reflect and make a list of their favorite worship songs-**

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**Say-** Take your list home and keep it somewhere safe, like in your Bible or on your bedroom wall. Use it as a reminder to worship, even in your darkest times. When things are bad, choose a song from your list and worship God no matter what!

### **Prayer Time**

**Say-** Great job discussing today! Now, let's take some time to pray. God is with us in every situation, and He is worthy of our praise! Let's ask God to fill us with His strength and peace and to help us remember to always praise Him. Would anyone like to lead us in prayer?

**-Allow time for a volunteer to pray. If no one volunteers, you can lead the prayer-**

**Pray**

### **Closing**

**Say-** No matter what challenges we face—whether it's a tough day at school or feeling stuck in a dark place like Paul and Silas did—we can choose to praise. When we fix our eyes on Jesus, even the hardest moments become opportunities to trust Him and lift our voices in worship. Paul and Silas didn't quit and set an example for us- **DON'T QUIT!** Even in our darkest times, we can worship God! Thanks for being here today. I'll see you again soon.

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I will constantly speak his praises.  
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