

Small Group Experience

LESSON 2 - “Shake, Rattle, and Roll”



Whatchagaddaknow?:
“I Will Choose Friends Who Lift Me Up!”



Power Verse:
“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”

- Proverbs 27:17

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Bible Story Print Piece (provided; print several per group)
- * Paper
- * Scissors
- * Cup
- * Pencils, crayons, or pencils

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before the small group begins, familiarize yourself with the story so you can facilitate and guide discussion. Print several copies of the Bible Story Print Piece and cut along the dotted lines to divide the story in two. To review the story, the group needs to be divided into two teams. Write the numbers 1 and 2 multiple times in equal amounts on the scrap paper. Cut these out, fold them, and place them in a cup. To review the story, divide the kids into small groups by allowing each kid to choose a piece of paper from the cup. Everyone who chose a number 1 is in a group, and the same goes for the number 2. Give each group copies of their corresponding part of the Bible story. Direct them to read their part of the story aloud and discuss it with their group. Once the groups complete this task, allow them to share their thoughts on their part of the story. Be prepared to lead the group in discussion, filling in any gaps in the storyline as needed.

Say- Today is all about connections! To begin, choose one piece of paper from the cup.

-Hold the cup and allow the kids to choose one of the number pieces-

Say- Everyone with a number one is a group, and if you have a number two, you're a group! Each group will receive one portion of the Bible story so you can read it aloud and discuss it together. Once everyone is ready, you'll share your thoughts about your part of the story with the rest of the group.

-Pass out the Bible story parts to their corresponding groups. Allow time for the groups to read their portion of the Bible story and discuss it together-

Ask- Group 1, please review your portion of the story and share your thoughts with the group.

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

Ask- Group 2, please review your portion of the story and share your thoughts about it with the group.

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

Say- I really enjoyed hearing your thoughts. Thank you for being willing to share!

Ask- What did you learn from this story?

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

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Dots And Boxes Print Piece (provided; print one per group/team)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Gather the necessary supplies. This game is played in pairs or small teams, with each player taking turns drawing one line between two adjacent dots. The goal is to complete full squares, and when a player completes a square, they write their initials inside it. The player (or team) with the most completed squares at the end wins! Play multiple rounds as time allows, switching partners or teams if desired.

Say- The right connections make all the difference! In today’s game, we will see how small connections can build something bigger. It’s called Dots and Boxes, and you’ll play with a partner. Here’s how it works: Each of you will take turns drawing one line between two dots—either horizontally or vertically. If your line completes a square, put your initials inside it. That means you’ve won that square! If you complete a square, you get another turn before the next player goes. Keep playing until all the boxes are completed. At the end, we’ll count up the squares—whoever has the most wins! Let’s start making connections—who’s ready to play?

-Play Dots And Boxes. This can be played multiple rounds as time allows-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Choose Friends Who Lift Me Up Print Piece (provided; print one per kid)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers
- * Bible

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before the small group begins, print the Choose Friends Who Lift Me Up 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- God created us to be in relationships—He designed us to connect with others. We were never meant to live alone. Even Paul and Silas in prison showed us how important it is to have friends who lift us up when things get rough. Who we choose to connect with really matters!

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Ask- Why do you think who we choose to be connected with is important?

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

Say- Being connected to someone means they become a part of your everyday life. It means sharing your good times, bad days, and everything in between. The people we are connected to influence how we think, what we do, and even who we become. That's why choosing the right friends is so important. Let's look at what the Bible says about this. I want someone to look up Proverbs 27:17 and read it aloud.

-Choose a volunteer, give them the Bible, and allow them to read the verse aloud-

Ask- What do you think this verse means? How does it relate to our friendships?

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

Say- What makes a friend a Godly, good connection? Get into small groups and talk through this question. Write your thoughts on your paper.

-Allow time for the groups to discuss the questions and write responses-

Ask- Who would like to share their thoughts about what makes a friend a Godly and good connection?

-Allow time for responses and discuss thoughts with the group. Guide the discussion as you list traits that make someone a Godly friend-

Ask- Sadly, not all friends are good connections. What happens when we hang out with the wrong kind of friends? How might that change the way we act or the decisions we make?

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

Say- Choosing the right friends matters! It means surrounding ourselves with people who encourage us to follow God even when trouble comes. When we connect with people who love God and make Him a priority, we get the support we need to face life's challenges. The right friendships also help us grow closer to God!

Prayer Time

Say- Great job discussing today! Now, let's take some time to pray. Take a minute and think about your life: who are the friends that help you become a better person? Who might be leading you down a wrong path? Don't respond out loud; just quietly think.

-Allow time for personal reflection-

Say- If you know there are harmful friendships in your life, ask God for the courage to step away from those relationships and make better connections. If you have people who are Godly connections, thank God for them and ask Him to bless them! Would anyone like to lead us in prayer?

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

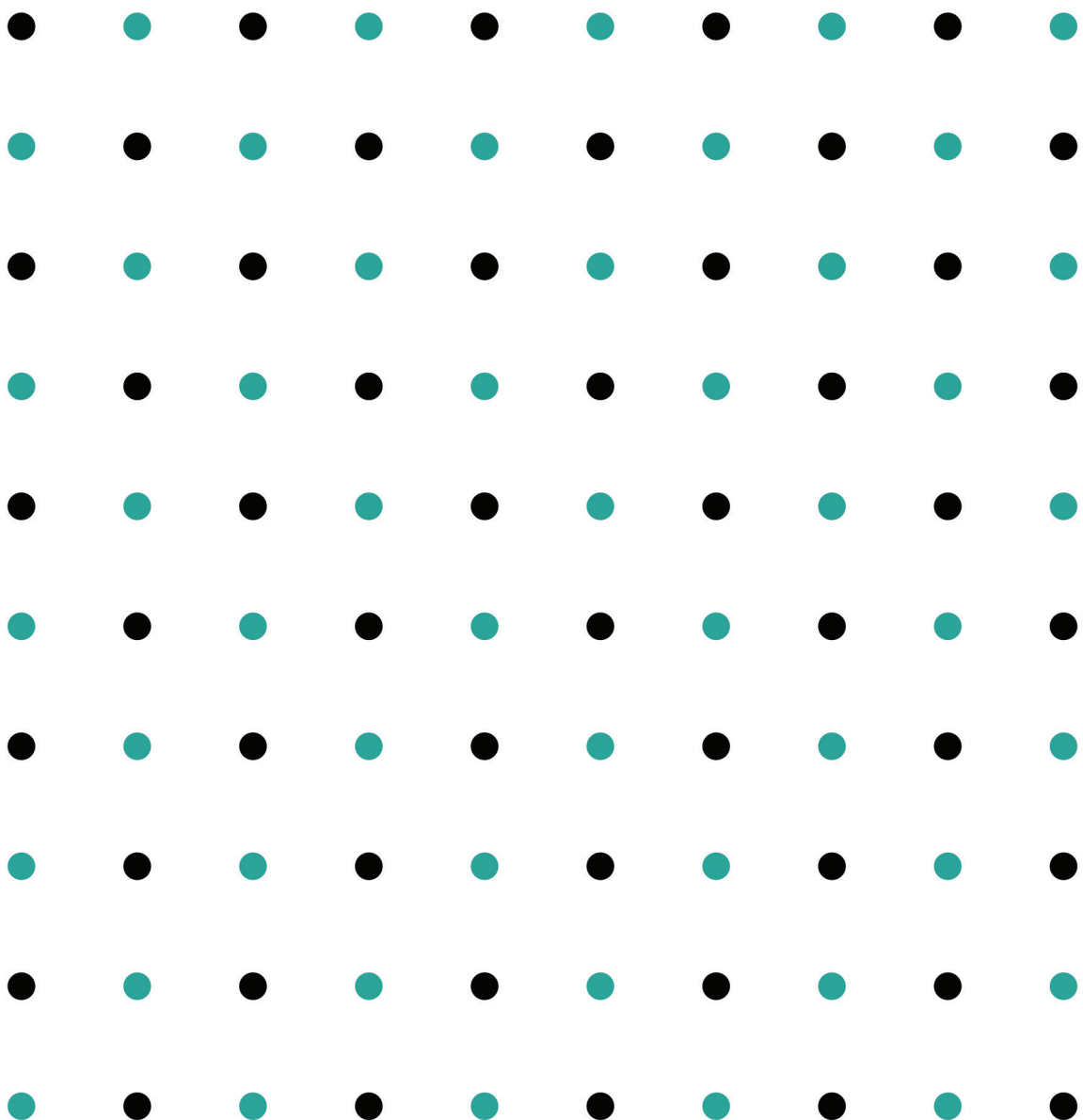
Closing

Say- Paul and Silas were the best type of friends; they were Godly friends. They were in prison. It was an awful situation, and they must have felt very discouraged at times. Thankfully, they had each other! They encouraged and gave hope to one another. In the darkest of times, they found strength together. We may never find ourselves locked in prison, but there will be dark times. When those times come, it matters who we are connected with. Godly friends make you better; they give you strength and lift you up! Thank you for being here today. I will see you again soon!

Part 1: Paul and Silas were thrown into prison because they cast a demon spirit out of a young slave girl. The girl was healed, but her owner was unhappy about it. Paul and Silas were thrown into a dark prison cell. In the middle of the night, Paul and Silas began praying and sing songs of praise and worship to God. It was so unexpected; the other prisoners began listening to their praise and were encouraged.

Part 2: Suddenly, there was an earthquake. The walls of the prison began to shake violently. GOD had sent this earthquake. Suddenly, the doors to every prison cell flew open! Paul and Silas looked around to see every single prisoner set free from their chains. Paul and Silas had gone from sitting in chains and worshipping one minute, to praising God for freedom the next! What an incredible miracle! Paul and Silas were chained to one another in one of the darkest moments of their lives. Thankfully, they had both chosen the RIGHT friend in ministry! When the tough times hit, they were chained to the RIGHT person - each other!

DOTS & BOXES



I WILL CHOOSE FRIENDS WHO LIFT ME UP!



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