



Elementary

Week 3:

Caring and Sharing in Times of Crisis

Lesson Overview:

Scripture: Acts 16:25-34

Key Passage to Memorize: They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Acts 16:31

Main Point: When things are hard, we can worship God and share the gospel.

We can always worship God no matter where we are and no matter what is going on.

Lesson time: 45 Minutes

Ice Breaker: 10 minutes while students arrive.

Introduction: 5 minutes to get students attention and to introduce topic.

Bible Reading: 5 minutes to read verses from the Bible and explain how to find them.

Application Activity: 10 minutes

Review and Pray: 10 minutes

Closing Activity: 5 minutes

Items Needed:

Ice Breaker: blocks for each child or sets of blocks for 2 children to work together. If you want to really be creative, provide toothpicks and marshmallows instead of blocks.

Application Activity: No supplies needed.

Review and Pray: Review and pray sheet, a pencil, and crayons.

Closing Activity: A balloon for each child (blow them up before class) be mindful of latex allergies.

Ice Breaker: 10 minutes *Designed to get kids ready to learn, to get their attention, and to focus them in while others are arriving.*

Before children arrive set out blocks for each child or a set for every two children to work together. Preferably instead of blocks set out piles of toothpicks and marshmallows.

As children arrive greet them and tell them: **Today we are learning about an earthquake! Do you know what an earthquake is? Let's build a big tower and see how strong you can build it before our pretend earthquake comes.**

Tell them to build a structure by putting the sharp in of the toothpick into a marshmallow and attaching it to another toothpick. Build their tower like this. After about 5-6 minutes of building, tell them that in today's Bible story there was an earthquake so, let's wiggle the tables or shake the rugs and see if our towers can withstand an earthquake.

See whose tower is left standing. Tell them let's try one more time. Have them rebuild and then test their towers again to see if any can withstand an earthquake.

Say: **You all did a great job building. Let's see if in today's Bible story the building fell over or if it stayed together when the earthquake hit.**

Introduction: 5 minutes *The introduction is designed to lay the foundation for what you will be teaching and where you will be in Scripture.*

Say: **In our Bible story today, Paul and Silas were in jail singing songs to God. Wow isn't that incredible. They could have been mad or sad that they were in jail, but they were praising God and singing to Him even when things seemed bad. Then, all of a sudden, an earthquake happened!**

What songs do you know that we can sing to God right now? Take a few minutes to sing some of the songs your class usually sings. Go through the songs your kids know and talk to them about how we can sing to God when we are happy, when we are scared, when things are good, and when things are bad. We can always worship God no matter where we are and no matter what is going on just like Paul and Silas did.

Bible Reading: 5 minutes

Hold your Bible and say: **This is God's special book, the Bible. When we read from it, we get to hear what God is saying to us. Today we are reading from Acts 16: 25-34. The Bible is divided up into two parts. The Old Testament and**

the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books and the New testament has 27 books. The Bible is made up of 66 books that tell one big story about how Jesus came to save people. The book of Acts is in the New Testament.

Find Acts in your Bible and explain how 16 is the chapter. It is the big number. After you find the big 16, read the verse. The verse is after the little 25. Explain that we will read through verse 34. Read Acts 16:25-34

Say: Today in what we read from the Bible we learned that Paul and Silas were in jail. Were they mad? Were they sad? Did they spend their whole time wishing they were somewhere else? NO they were worshipping God. Then suddenly an earthquake happened. The doors of the prison opened and their chains came off, but did Paul and Silas run away? NO they stayed there because it was the right thing to do. The guard came in and said, “What must I do to be saved?” Even in jail and after an earthquake Paul and Silas wanted to talk about Jesus. They told the jailer. “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” The jailer believed and was saved. He went home to tell the good news of Jesus to his family. They believed too!

Application Activity: 10 minutes *Designed to get your kids moving and to drive the main point home.*

This game is called *Earthquake Tag*. You will pick one child to be “it” or for very young preschoolers the teacher can be “it.” When you say, “Go,” the kids will run around the room and when they are tagged, they will stop and pretend they are shaking like they are in an earthquake until another child tags them to set them free. Switch up who is “it” from time to time.

Play as long as time allows. Feel free to play music while you are playing.

Review and Pray: 10 Minutes

Say: Today we learned about Paul and Silas and how even in prison and during an earthquake they praised God! They even shared their faith and told the jailer how to know and follow Jesus. When things are hard, we can worship God and share the gospel.

We can always worship God no matter where we are and no matter what is going on.

Hand each child a *Review and Pray* activity sheet. Have them draw a picture of them worshipping and singing to God. Then have them do the word search.

After they finish, pray together.

Dear God, thank You that even when things are hard, we can worship You and tell others about You. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Closing Activity: 5 minutes

As children are preparing to be picked up, have them stand up and go over the memory verse together. Give each child a balloon and **tell them to say their memory verse. They should hit the balloon into the air each time they say a word from the verse.** They should be able to do this several times. Tell them to try their best to NOT let their balloon hit the ground.

Copy the front and back of the take home page and give to each child. Point out the memory verse to their parents.