



## LESSON SNAPSHOT

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

We can celebrate Jesus at all times, even when our adventure isn't so thrilling.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn they can worship God at all times.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 16:16-34, Paul and Silas in Prison

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

- *Philippians 4:12-13*

### **SUMMARY:**

Joyful music. Pretty colors. Happy animals. The Carousel is a ride for all ages. It's not about thrills and spills. The Carousel is all about celebration. On the adventure with Jesus, we can celebrate at all times, even when things aren't so pretty. Paul and Silas were arrested for sharing Jesus. But even in prison, Paul and Silas were able to praise God and celebrate.

### **SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the joy you give us when we are down. Help us to sing for you, and use us to show your joy to others.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## MEMORY VERSE

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

*- Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)*

*"I know what it's like not to have what I need. I also know what it's like to have more than I need. I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength."*

*- Philippians 4:12-13 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

As a group, see if the kids can recite the memory verse without seeing it on screen. Then put the verse on screen and read it once more together.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.



## SKIT

### PEP TALK FOR THE ANIMALS

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

None

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M

#### CHARACTERS:

Joey- An amusement park worker

Matt- A motivational speaker

*Joey walks on stage.*

JOEY: Okay, if I can get all the carousel animals over here, please. Carousel animals, right here together. Come on, guys, the park opens in twenty minutes. Let's not stall here. Hey you, the zebra, will you quit kicking the giant rabbit, please? Come on, guys, this is for your benefit, not mine. Now I know a lot of you are a bit worn out, this being the end of the season and all, so I brought in a motivational speaker to talk to you guys. So please welcome to the carousel the man you've probably seen on those infomercials, Matt Matthews.

*Matt enters.*

MATT: Thank you, Jerry.

JOEY: It's Joey.

MATT: Doesn't matter. Well, folks, as I look out on this audience, I can see why I am needed. I look around, and you know what I see? A bunch of long faces. I've never seen so many long faces in all my life!

JOEY: That's because most of them are horses.

# SKIT

MATT: I know all of you feel like you're going nowhere. Day in and day out, all you do is spin your wheels. You go through ups and downs, and you go around in circles. You never go anywhere. Well I'm here to tell you, it's time to break free, to chart your own course, and stop spinning in circles.

JOEY: That can't stop spinning in circles. They're carousel animals. It's what they do.

MATT: It is?

JOEY: Yeah.

MATT: That's the most depressing thing I've ever heard in my life. Why I don't know what I'd do if I were you guys. I couldn't keep on spinning in circles, that's for sure.

JOEY: Really? You can't think of anything to tell them?

MATT: Not a thing.

JOEY: Not even reminding them that God loves them? Not even telling them that even when life seems to be less than thrilling, God is there? Not even that no matter how frustrated they are, they can still praise God?

MATT: They can do all that?

JOEY: Of course they can!

MATT: Well I don't know about them, but that sure makes me feel better. Does that make you cats feel better? Hey, where's the giant rabbit going?

JOEY: You said the word cats. You spooked him.

MATT: Sorry about that, guy! I didn't mean real cats.

JOEY: Just remember, guys, whether it's hot or cold, rainy or sunny, we can still praise God. We can have joy!

MATT: And my work here is done. You're welcome everybody!

*End.*



## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Chocolate candy

How many of you are having a good weekend? Let me see your hands.

Okay, now how many of you are having less than a great weekend? Anyone?

How many of you would be having a better weekend if you had a little chocolate?

*Pass the candy out to the kids; have an alternative for any kids who can't eat chocolate.*

No matter how good or bad a day you have, we all have certain things that can make us feel better. For some it's candy. For some, it may be a favorite song. What's something that cheers you up on a gloomy day?

Today we're talking about carousels. Carousels go around and around and take us up and down. But whether we're up or down, the carousel always has joyful music playing. It's a good reminder that whether we're up or down in life, we have Jesus, and we can have joy.

When life has you down, find something to give you your joy back, then thank God for all his wonderful blessings. Whether it's a great day or a bad one, we can praise God and find our joy again!



## LARGE GROUP GAME

### UP AND DOWN RACE

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

A starting and finishing line  
Obstacles for the race.

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Set up a race course in the room that requires kids to climb over and under objects to reach the finish. Choose two racers to run at the same time, or make it a timed race and have each kid run separately.

#### VARIATION:

To further the analogy with carousels, you can make a circular course and have the kids run a few laps.

#### WHAT'S THE POINT?

Sometimes in life we are up, and sometimes we are down. No matter what, we can praise God and have joy in knowing He is with us.



## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

We can celebrate Jesus at all times, even when our adventure isn't so thrilling.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn they can worship God at all times.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 16:16-34, Paul and Silas in Prison

### **INTRO**

All amusement parks are different. Some have more shows than others. Some specialize in huge roller coasters. Some have more water rides. And some have more kids' rides.

No two amusement parks have all the same rides, but there's one ride you can find in almost every amusement park - a carousel. Carousels are one of the oldest and most beloved rides. It's a fairly simple concept: a bunch of animals attached to poles take passengers on a ride in a circle while happy music plays from a calliope in the middle. The calliopes have mostly been replaced by modern stereos with modern music, but other than that, the ride is pretty much the same.

Most of you probably got your first amusement park ride on a carousel, with your mom, dad, or grandparent holding on to you as your baby hands held on to the pole. It's a timeless ride enjoyed and shared from generation to generation.

Carousels are a reminder that we can have joy in good times and bad. Carousels take us around and around through many ups and downs. No matter if we're high or low, the music plays on, giving us that happy feeling. Jesus can do the same for us, but in a much greater way. Even in the worst of lows, when everything seems wrong, we can still have joy.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Last week's story saw the apostle Peter thrown in prison where he made a miraculous escape. This week it's Paul and his friend Silas who end up in jail. The beginning is the same, but the ending is miraculous in a very different way, all because Paul and Silas remained joyful in their suffering.

## **READ Acts 16:16-34**

### **MAIN POINT**

People who are put in prison do many things. They think. They cry. They write letters. They make excuses for their actions. One thing you rarely hear in prison is singing. Prison is not a joyful place, and in Paul's time that was especially true.

Yet there's Paul and Silas, singing and praising God because they are in prison for his sake. Just like last week, God performs a miraculous act. An earthquake came, shaking the walls of the prison and breaking the chains. But unlike last week, Paul and Silas stay put. Not only them, but all the other prisoners. Their joy and their faith are so powerful, the jailer and his entire family came to know Jesus.

The jailer saw first hand what this week's message is all about. Life takes you up, life takes you down, but no matter where you are, Jesus can give you true joy!

### **DRIVE IT HOME**

God knows that our lives are not always going to be perfect. We're all going to face sad times and tragedies we'd rather not face. We're going to have times when we just want to sit and cry.

Even in those sad times, God promises to be with us. He was with Paul and Silas in that jail cell, and that gave them the courage to sing. They knew that the Romans could take their freedom, but they could never take Jesus away.

The best part of the story is what happened after God shook the walls of the jail. Rather than run away, Paul and Silas stayed put. They saved the life of the jailer, and they shared the good news of Jesus with him. God used their joy to bring salvation to the jailer and his family.

God can use our joy in the same way. When we keep singing in down times, when we praise God in our sorrow, people will know that our faith is real. Not only will God lift our spirits, he will use us to draw other people to Jesus.

We'd all love to stay up in the good times, but let's be honest: it's the down times that make the good times so special. When life gets you down, sing your praise to the Lord. Keep the music going, and God will give you joy.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the joy you give us when we are down. Help us to sing for you, and use us to show your joy to others.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER

What is your favorite carousel animal?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Philippians 4:12-13

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Teach the kids a praise song, preferably one with hand motions.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### Read Acts 16:16-34

Why were Paul and Silas put in jail?

What did Paul and Silas do while they were in chains?

What did God do while Paul and Silas were singing?

What happened to the jailer?

Why does God want us to praise him when we are down?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for your amazing love. Please give us joy even when things don't go our way.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER

What is your favorite carousel animal?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Philippians 4:12-13

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids stand and sing a praise song together.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### Read Acts 16:16-34

Why were Paul and Silas singing praise songs?

What miracle happened while they were in jail?

Why did the jailer give his heart to Jesus?

Why is it hard to have joy when we are suffering hard times?

How can God use our joy to show his love to others?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for your amazing love. Please give us joy even when things don't go our way.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*



## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. Who was thrown in jail with Paul?
  - A. Silas\*
  - B. Timothy
  - C. Barnabbas
2. What did Paul and Silas do that night?
  - A. Plotted their escape.
  - B. Slept.
  - C. Sang praise songs.\*
3. When God shook the walls of the prison
  - A. Paul and Silas escaped.
  - B. the other prisoners escaped.
  - C. everyone stayed where they were.\*
4. The jailer was so surprised that no one escaped,
  - A. he and his whole family accepted Christ.\*
  - B. he set them free.
  - C. he resigned from his job.
5. We can have joy
  - A. in good times only.
  - B. in good times and bad times.\*
  - C. in bad times only.

# MAKE IT STICK

## 5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: CAROUSEL



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today's lesson was about carousels, which remind us that life is full of ups and downs. Whether we are up or down, we can have joy in Jesus. Acts 16:16-34 – Paul and Silas in Prison.



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Take some time with your family this week to praise God where you are. Ask everyone to say something that makes them want to praise God and be thankful.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What happened to Paul and Silas in jail?
- What happened to the jailer that same night?
- How can being joyful in bad times show others the love of Jesus?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

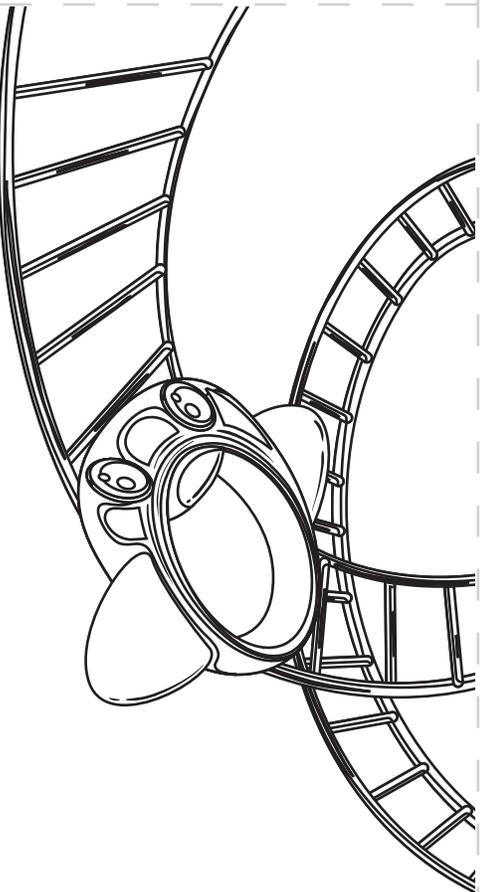
- *Philippians 4:12-13*



#### PARENT TIME:

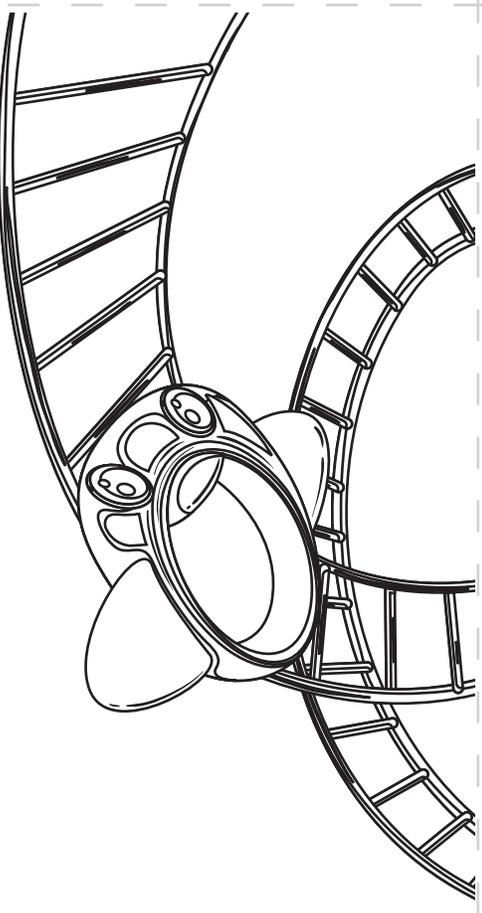
What you need to know:

We need to have joy in good times, and in bad. Whatever kind of week you have, pray that you will be able to lead your kids in having joy through this week.



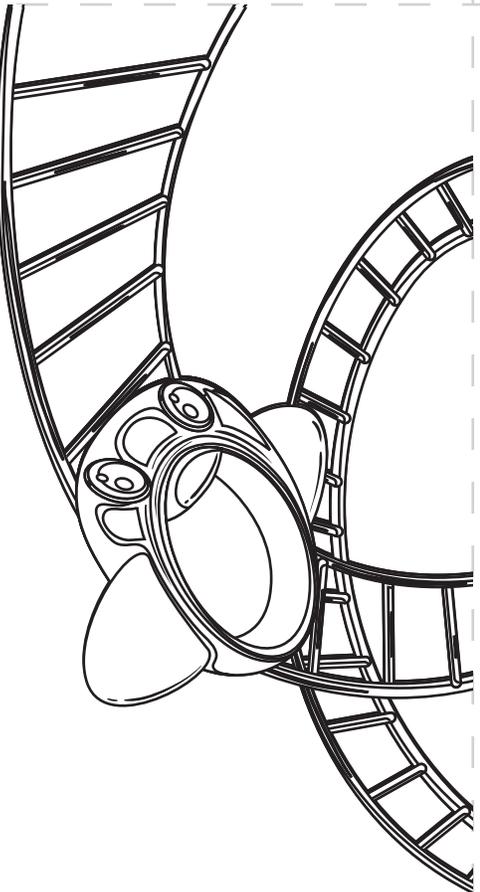
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- Philippians 4:12-13



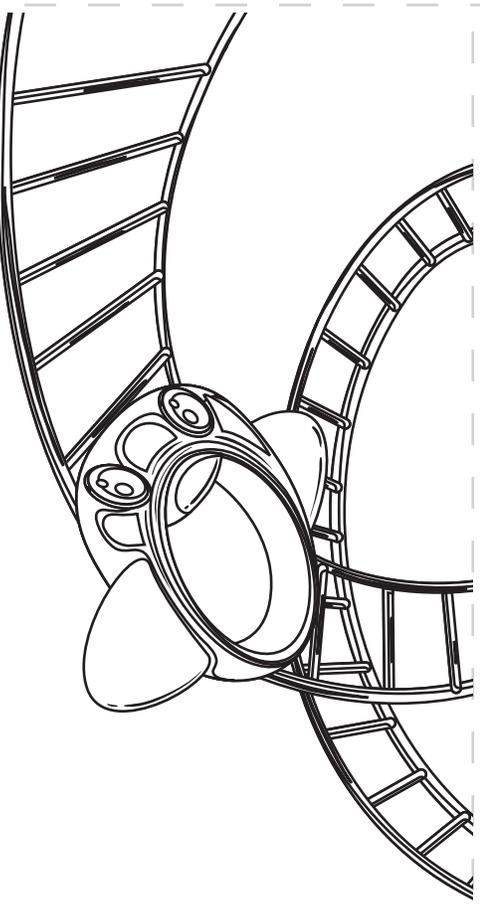
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"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

- Philippians 4:12-13



"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

- Philippians 4:12-13



## CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids create a prison chain, cutting strips of construction paper and taping them together. Let them write reminders on the links that they can praise God in good times and bad.