



Date: _____

Series: **Join God's Family** (Spring)
Year 1, Lesson 57

A Jailer Joins God's Family

Bible Event: Acts 16:22-36

Take Home Point: *JOIN GOD'S FAMILY – *Be filled with joy.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Believing in Jesus brings joy.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God can use great power to get our attention. The jailer knew something awesome and powerful had happened and asked Paul how he could be saved. Just like the jailer, all we have to do is believe the message of Jesus dying for our sins and we can be filled with joy, too. Kids will take home the point: ***JOIN GOD'S FAMILY** – *Be filled with joy.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for living them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

Lesson 57 - 1



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to the precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before showing. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting them to see what happens by watching the video. Also, you can introduce the video by inviting them to watch for special actions or words.

Show the video “*The Visual Bible: Acts.*” Produced by Visual Bible International, 1997. Show Acts 16:22-36.

When finished with the video, remember: ***JOIN GOD’S FAMILY – Be filled with joy.**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide each child with a plate, napkin and four pretzels. The shepherd will make a face with cheese spray on a cracker by making a head (circle), two dots for eyes and a smile for the mouth. Have the children lay four pretzels vertically on the “cheese face”. The pretzels represent the jail bars. Remind them that even though Paul was in jail, he prayed and sang songs of worship to God.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Have the children draw a picture of Paul and use the pretzels to represent the jail bars.

Drama Zone: Provide costumes and let the children reenact the scene.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to discuss things that make them sad and how they can pray and Jesus helps them feel better.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story Paul and the Jailer from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #172 “Paul and Silas in Prison” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Provide colorful pieces of construction paper already cut to make paper chains. The children can decorate the chains with crosses, smiley faces and stickers. Next, have them make the chain by taping/stapling the papers together. These colorful chains remind us Jesus set us free. We are no longer bound. Also, think of ways Jesus has filled you with joy.

Play Zone: Provide parachute. Call out names, or other identifiers (e.g. blue shoes, March birthdays) and have those children run from one side of the parachute to the other as it is lifted in the air. Once they are in place, pull the parachute down again. Repeat until all have had a turn. Remind the children that Jesus exchanged his life with us and took our sin on himself. Help the children remember that Paul helped the jailer go from sad to glad by not escaping and sharing the good news with him. Paul saw joy return to the jailer's face when he placed his belief in Jesus.

Option: Have children move from one side of the room to another by hopping, skipping, etc.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Paul and Silas in jail.

Music Zone: Your choice of music

Coloring Zone: “Jailer and his family believe” coloring page. Remind children Paul is filled with joy even in prison.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group presenter can interact with the puppet.

Bubba wants to join the club down the street. The club is called the "Gross-Out Club". Bubba explains that they are famous for having long, dirty fingernails, never taking baths, wearing the same socks for months at a time, and eating black bananas. Bubba sighs and hangs his head. Bubba tells the presenter that he is sad because they didn't let him join. The presenter asks why not. Bubba is just not gross enough. The presenter asks Bubba why he would want to join a club like that club. The presenter goes on to tell Bubba that there is a much better place to join. Today, we learned about the jailer joining God's family and he was filled with joy. Paul told the jailer about Jesus and how Jesus took care of our sins when he died on the cross. The jailer was wise enough to ask how he could join God's family. God's wants everyone to join his family. It is easy to join when you believe in Jesus. Remember: ***JOIN GOD'S FAMILY – Be filled with joy.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over the heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- video: the *Visual Bible: Acts* by Visual Bible International, 1997—order from <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B0002UBX4U/ref%3Dpd%5Fsl%5Faw%5Falx-jeb-9-1%5Fdvd%5F7875456%5F1/002-1331796-6652867> or from: http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364

Action Zones:

Snack:

- canned spray cheese
- crackers
- pretzels
- plates & napkins

Drama:

- costumes

Craft:

- pre-cut strips from assorted colors of construction paper (approx. 2"x4")
- tape, glue or staples
- markers, crayons
- stickers

Play:

- parachute

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- songs on choice

Puppet:

- assorted puppets

Felt:

- Paul and Silas in jail materials (For example, use Lesson #172 "Paul and Silas in Prison" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- coloring page