

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God deserves praise.

**OBJECTIVE:**

In this lesson kids will learn that God is wonderful in so many ways, he deserves our praise.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 16:25-34, Paul and Silas in Prison

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5 (NirV)*

**SUMMARY:**

Even though they were in trouble for telling people about Jesus, Paul and Silas praised God – praying and singing songs – from their prison cell. When an earthquake freed them from their chains, they did not leave. Instead they told the jailer about Jesus, so that he could praise God too.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*You are wonderful. We praise and worship you.*

*Amen*

## MEMORY VERSE

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP MV ACTIVITY:**

Say the verse several times together using the motions. Start by saying it in a whisper, then a little less softly. Keep repeating it until you are shouting the verse together.

### **Motions:**

“Love the Lord your God”

*[Cross arms over heart and hug yourself]*

“with all your heart”

*[Move your hands in a large circle]*

“and with all your soul.”

*[Move your hands in another large circle]*

“**Love him with all your strength.**”

*[Flex your biceps]*

### **SMALL GROUP MV ACTIVITY:**

As a group, see how loudly you can shout the verse together.

## SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

**TITLE:** The Wonderful God

**ITEMS NEEDED:** Puzzle

**CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:** 2 Men

**CHARACTERS:** Jazz, Razz

*Razz is putting together a puzzle when Jazz enters.*

JAZZ: Hey Razz.

RAZZ: Oh hey, Jazz.

JAZZ: Yet another puzzle?

RAZZ: What can I say? I just love puzzles.

JAZZ: I think I'm starting to love puzzles too. Can I help?

RAZZ: Of course.

Jazz joins Razz in putting the puzzle together.

JAZZ: Is that a jail?

RAZZ: Yep.

JAZZ: Who are those prisoners locked up by their feet? They must be bad guys to be locked up in jail.

RAZZ: That's Paul and that's Silas.

JAZZ: What a minute. Those aren't bad guys. They followed God and went around the world telling people about Jesus.

# SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

RAZZ: That's right. A lot of people learned to love and follow Jesus because of Paul and Silas.

JAZZ: So, why are they in jail?

RAZZ: Some people who didn't follow Jesus, didn't want Paul and Silas to go around telling other people about Jesus. So they had Paul and Silas thrown in jail.

JAZZ: That's not fair. Paul and Silas didn't do anything wrong. It must have made them pretty sad to be locked up in that jail.

RAZZ: Do they look sad?

JAZZ: No. They look happy. Like they're singing.

RAZZ: Through the night, Paul and Silas prayed and sang songs of praise to God. They remembered that God deserves praise.

JAZZ: Even from jail.

RAZZ: When we're happy or when we're sad, God is still good. God deserves praise.

JAZZ: You're right. God deserves praise. If God took care of Paul and Silas in that jail, I know that he will take care of me.

RAZZ: Should we continue the puzzle?

JAZZ: Maybe later. Why don't we spend some time praising God?

RAZZ: Sounds good. God deserves praise.

JAZZ: He sure does.

*End.*

## SNACK

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Pretzel sticks, construction paper or card stock, tape, marker

### ADVANCED PREPARATION:

Roll squares of construction paper into cones; secure with tape. Make one for each kid. Write musical notes on the cone. Fill each cone with pretzel sticks.

Post a sign outside the preschool area that says: "Today's snack is pretzel sticks. Please let your child's teacher know if it is not ok for your child to have this snack."

### CONNECTION:

The pretzel sticks remind us of the prison bars when Paul and Silas were in jail. The musical notes remind us that Paul and Silas sang and prayed when they were in jail. They never forgot that God deserves praise. Once the snack is eaten, the cones can be used as trumpets to continue to give God praise.

## CRAFT

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Paper, black marker or included sheet, crayons

### ADVANCED PREPARATION:

Print copies of the included sheet or use a black marker to draw five black lines across the width of each paper.

### DIRECTIONS:

Give a paper to each kid. Let them know that these are the prison bars. Ask them to draw Paul and Silas in their jail cell. Remind them that Paul and Silas were praying and sing songs of praise to God even in jail. Let them go and see where their creativity takes them.

## HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Legos or other building blocks

### ADVANCED PREPARATION:

Build the jail from today's story. Place figures for Paul, Silas and the jailer inside.

### DIRECTIONS:

Briefly retell the story of Paul and Silas in jail using your "set", including bringing down walls and prison doors when the earthquake comes. Give each child building blocks of their own to put together their own jail from the story.

## MAIN LESSON

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God deserves praise.

**OBJECTIVE:**

In this lesson kids will learn that God is wonderful in so many ways, he deserves our praise.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 16:25-34, Paul and Silas in Prison

**WORSHIP TIME:**

Prior to the lesson, sing one or two songs with the kids. Use CDs or live lyrics of songs that the kids are familiar with.

**LESSON:**

Today's story comes to us from the Bible. *(Hold up a Bible.)* The Bible is God's word to us, so we know that everything it says is true. *(Open the Bible and set it down in front of you as you give the lesson.)*

The Bible tells us that there is only one God. Our God deserves praise.

Paul and Silas were two men who traveled all around telling people about Jesus and how he came to forgive us of our sins. Some of the people didn't want Paul and Silas to talk about Jesus, so they had Paul and Silas thrown into jail.

The jailer locked up Paul and Silas' feet in chains so they couldn't escape. Were Paul and Silas sad in that jail? No. Even in jail, they knew that God deserves praise.

Paul and Silas prayed to God. They sang songs about God's power and his greatness.

Then suddenly, around midnight, an earthquake came. The ground began to shake. The walls of the jail moved from side to side. The prison doors flew open. The chains on Paul and Silas' feet broke away.

Paul and Silas were free. Did they run away? No. They stayed in the jail. They told the jailer all about Jesus. They told the jailer how Jesus came to forgive us of our sins. They told the jailer that God deserves praise.

# MAIN LESSON

The jailer put his trust in Jesus. The jailer gave God thanks and praise for all that he had done. Sometimes life is happy and sometimes it is sad, but no matter what, God deserves praise.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*You are wonderful. We praise and worship you.*

*Amen*

## MAIN LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **WIGGLE TAMER:**

Have a little dance party. While the music is playing, kids can jump and dance around the space. When the music stops, kids must put their hands around their ankles as if they are in chains. When the music resumes, they can jump up and dance once more. Stop the music several times unexpectedly.

### **SMALL GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:**

As a group, see how loudly you can shout the verse together.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Where were Paul and Silas sent for talking about Jesus?

What did Paul and Silas do while they were in the jail?

What happened when the earthquake came?

How can we praise and worship God?

### **SMALL GROUP GAME OR ACTIVITY:**

Come up with as many ways as possible to give God praise: prayer, singing songs of praise, dancing, raising your arms to heaven, etc. Take a moment as a group to demonstrate each of these tokens of praise to God.

## SPECIAL 1 PAGE LESSON 1 & 2 YEAR OLDS

### **PLAY TIME:**

Spend the first 15 minutes on the floor playing with the kids. Cars, dolls, blocks, and simple puzzles are great for this time.

### **BIBLE TIME:**

Seat the kids in the place they will be having snack. Hold up a Bible or Illustrated Kids' Bible and say, "This is the Bible. God wrote the Bible. Everything in the Bible is true." Then allow each child to pat the Bible with his hand.

### **LESSON:**

Paul and Silas in the prison locked up tight.  
They prayed and sang songs to God through the night.  
An earthquake came and shook the entire place.  
Our God is wonderful and worthy of praise.

God deserves praise.

### **MAKE IT REAL:**

After the lesson say, "God loves you, and he wants you to love him too." Then point to each child and say, "God loves you (child's name)."

### **PRAYER TIME:**

Ask the children to fold their hands and bow their heads. Say, "Let's pray before our snack. Thank you God for our mommies and our daddies. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for this snack we get to eat. Amen."

### **SNACK TIME:**

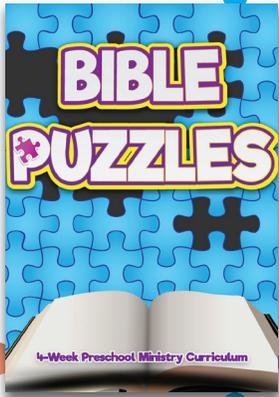
Wash each child's hand with a wet wipe and then serve the snack. At this age crackers or goldfish with water are generally best, but you always want to be mindful of any food allergies.

### **POTTY BREAK:**

After snack is a great time to ask those who are potty trained if they need to use the bathroom, or change diapers of those who are not yet potty trained.

### **PLAY TIME:**

Finish the day with more playtime until it's time for dismissal.



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## Bible Puzzles Lesson 4

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: THE WONDERFUL GOD



#### DRIVING:

Play some worship music in the car. Sing songs of thanksgiving for what God has done. Sing songs of praise for who God is.



#### PLAYING:

Using Legos or other building blocks, recreate the jail scene from Acts 16:25-34. Have little ones move the figures, and enact the earthquake as you read the Bible story aloud.



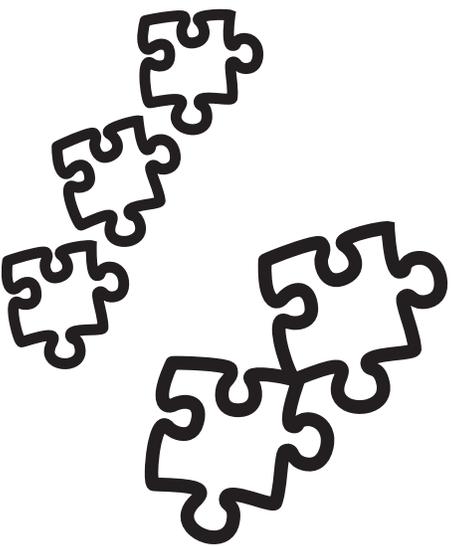
#### EATING:

Before mealtime, take a few extra moments to offer God praise. Don't focus exclusively on what God has provided, but also praise him simply for who he is. Celebrate his greatness by remembering the previous lessons in this series: There is only one God, God is powerful, and God loves us.



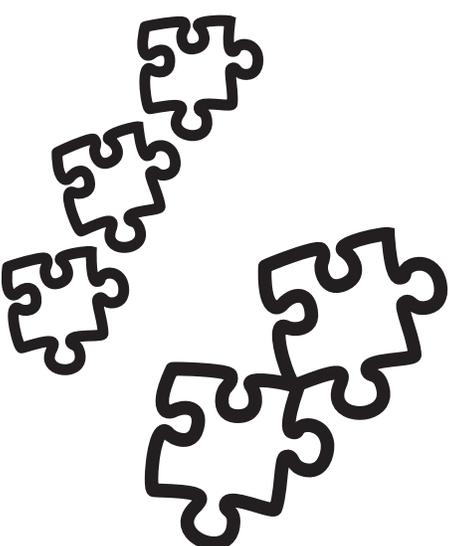
#### SNUGGLING:

Snuggle up together and read the memory verse together: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength." Deuteronomy 6:5 (NirV). Talk about how we give God praise, worship, and thanksgiving is a way that we can show God our love.



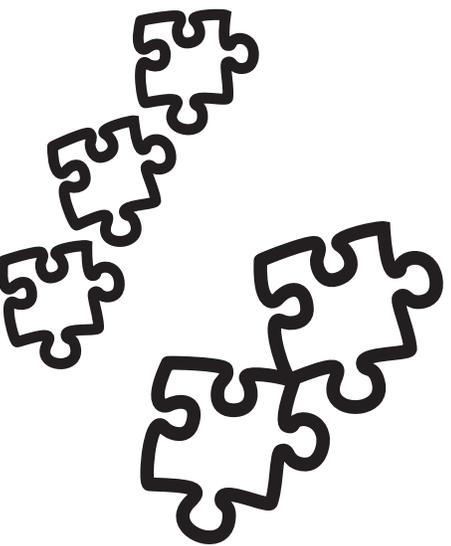
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul. Love him with all your  
strength.”

- Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIRV)



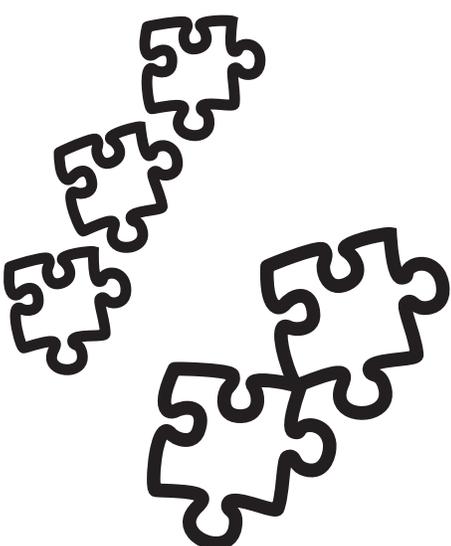
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul. Love him with all your  
strength.”

- Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIRV)



“Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul. Love him with all your  
strength.”

- Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIRV)



“Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul. Love him with all your  
strength.”

- Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIRV)

