



## LESSON SNAPSHOT

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Like Paul, Big Heroes are joyful.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn the importance of joyfulness in living for God.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 16:16-36. Paul and Silas in prison.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

### **SUMMARY:**

Paul had driven an evil spirit from a woman. Because of it, Paul and Silas were arrested and put in prison. Even in prison, the men were filled with joyfulness. They spent the night singing songs and praising God. That joy and contentment was infectious, even causing Paul's jailor to put his trust in God. We too, can learn to be joyful and content no matter the circumstances.

### **SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for heroes that show us what it means to be joyful. Be with us and give us all of the virtues that make for a great hero.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## MEMORY VERSE

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

*“A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. Let us keep on running the race marked out for us.” - Hebrews 12:1 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Split the main group in two. See which group can recite the memory verse from memory the loudest.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Create a simple beat – right hand to the right thigh, left hand to the left thigh, hand clap, repeat. Say the verse together to the rhythm of the beat. Say the verse several times as the beat gets faster.



## SKIT

### DAMSEL IN DISTRESS: JOYFULNESS

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Black outfit (for villain)

Rope

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M, 1F

#### CHARACTERS:

Damsel

Villain

*Our Damsel is on the railroad tracks tied up with rope. The Villain stands over her.*

VILLAIN: I've got you now, Damsel.

DAMSEL: Hey, wait a minute. Didn't someone save me last week?

VILLAIN: Yes, but I have captured you again.

DAMSEL: Of course you have.

VILLAIN: And this time I have brought you to an even more secluded place.

DAMSEL: That was clever of you.

VILLAIN: This time, no hero will come along to save you.

DAMSEL: I can see you put a lot of work into this plan of yours.

VILLAIN: Yes, I did.

# SKIT

DAMSEL: You know, I don't support what you're doing. I think it's wrong. But I do have to say, I admire your passion for what you do.

VILLAIN: Thank you. Wait, what are you doing?

DAMSEL: I'm not doing anything?

*Damsel starts humming a tune.*

VILLAIN: Good. As I was saying, there is no use in calling for help. We are in a place where no one would ever hear you. (beat) Are you humming?

DAMSEL: Was I? Oh, I guess I was. Please go on.

*Damsel hums once more.*

VILLAIN: Soon the train will come along and take care of you. And then no one will be able to stop me from taking over this town. (beat) You're doing it again.

DAMSEL: Doing what?

VILLAIN: You're humming.

DAMSEL: Sorry.

VILLAIN: Don't think that some hero is going to come along this time and save you.

DAMSEL: I'm not worried.

VILLAIN: You're not?

DAMSEL: No. I've got joy.

VILLAIN: How can you have joy, being tied to these tracks?

DAMSEL: Joy is the power to be content at all times regardless of the circumstances. My trust is in God and I know that he will see me through everything. My faith in him gives me joy.

VILLAIN: Joy, huh? I suppose your inner joy is the reason that you're humming?

DAMSEL: Yep.

# SKIT

VILLAIN: And joy is the reason that you're not afraid anymore?

DAMSEL: Yep.

VILLAIN: And joy is the reason you're smiling?

DAMSEL: Joy. And the fact that I know something you don't know.

VILLAIN: Really, and what is that?

DAMSEL: I don't need any hero to come along and save me.

VILLAIN: You don't?

DAMSEL: No. I can be my own hero.

*Damsel breaks free out of the ropes.*

VILLAIN: Hey, don't do that.

*Villain goes down to her. There is a struggle where we can't quite see what's happening. The next thing we know, Villain is tied to the tracks and Damsel stands over him.*

VILLAIN: I'm trapped. You must be pretty pleased with yourself.

DAMSEL: I'm joyful. I have the same joy up here that I had down there. It's the joy of the Lord that is always with me.

*Damsel starts to exit.*

VILLAIN: Wait. You're not going to leave me here, are you?

DAMSEL: No, I'll come back after you've had a chance to cool down. Maybe you could take this opportunity to think about what I've been talking about.

*Damsel exits.*

VILLAIN: Help. I need a hero!



## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

12 – Long strips of construction paper in different colors. On each strip, write one of the virtues spoken of in this series (obedience, faith, forgiveness, humility, commitment, leadership, confidence, loyalty, self-control, wisdom, courage, joyfulness).

This is our last week looking at the big heroes of the Bible. We've met a lot of men and women on this journey. We've seen the obedience of Noah. The faithfulness of Abraham. And the forgiveness of Joseph.

*Show the paper strip corresponding to the virtue you're mentioning.*

We've learned about humility from Moses. Commitment from Joshua. And leadership from Deborah. Gideon taught us about confidence and Ruth taught us about loyalty. We've seen David's self-control, Solomon's wisdom and Peter and John's courage. Today we're looking at Paul's joyfulness.

*As you share this next part, place six strips on the ground vertically and six strips horizontally. Lay the strips together in a simple over one, under one pattern to form a cross.*

The thing about virtues, though, is you can't have just one. You can't just be courageous and nothing else. You also have to be committed, and you have to be obedient to God. It's a bad idea to try and be a leader if you don't have wisdom or self-control.

We need to seek to have all of these great qualities that the heroes of the Bible displayed. They are all interconnected. If we ask God, he can weave them together in our lives too.

*Show the completed cross made of all of the virtues.*



# LARGE GROUP GAME

## REVERSE MUSICAL CHAIRS

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Music

Chairs

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Today's game is all about fun and joy.

Start with two kids and one chair. Have kids walk around the chair as some fun music plays. When it stops, the kids try to be the first one to sit in the chair.

The kid who didn't make it isn't out, though. Not today! Instead another chair and another kid is added to the mix. Every round another chair and another kid is added. Work up to as many kids as possible joining in.

On the last round, you don't even have to end the music if you don't want. Just keep moving, maybe start dancing.

### VARIATION:

You could play the more traditional version, but it won't be as much fun.

### WHAT'S THE POINT?

Paul and Silas were filled with joy, not fear or worry.



## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Like Paul, Big Heroes are joyful.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn the importance of joyfulness in living for God.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 16:16-36. Paul and Silas in prison.

### **INTRO**

We all have heroes. People that we admire, look up to, want to be like. People who have done amazing things and possess amazing qualities. Those qualities are what we call virtues. Today is our final look at the virtues of several Bible heroes.

To wrap up, we're going to look at a quality all of our Bible heroes have possessed. But it's something you may not have noticed. It's also something you may not have thought necessary in order to be a hero. What is that thing? It's joyfulness.

That's right, joyfulness. Our heroes all had joy. Even when times were at their darkest, these heroes had the joy of the Lord. They had placed their faith in God and they knew that he would see them through. They didn't need to be consumed with worry or fear. They could be filled with joy.

Paul had joy. Paul was a missionary for God. He traveled all around the world, telling people about Jesus. Sometimes the people accepted Paul and his message. Sometimes, they ran him out of town. Paul had been arrested, beaten, stoned, arrested again. But he had also seen many people come to accept Jesus as their Savior.

Paul once wrote that he had learned to be content in whatever circumstances he faced. He had the joy of the Lord. And that's because he had put his hope and trust in God.



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Now let's look at a time, on one of Paul's missionary journeys, where that joyfulness came in handy.

**READ Acts 16:16-36.**

## **MAIN POINT**

Paul had driven an evil spirit out of a woman. You would think people would be happy about that, but they weren't. The woman was a slave, and her owners had made money off of her because she would tell people their fortunes. When the evil spirit left, they were out a lot of money.

So these men had Paul and Silas arrested. They were taken into an inner cell where they were chained together. Paul and Silas could have been afraid. They could have begged for mercy or cried out in pain. But they didn't. Even in prison, Paul and Silas had joy.

The two men spent the night praying and singing hymns of praise to God.

When an earthquake destroyed the foundations of the jail, Paul could have tried to seize the opportunity to escape. But he stayed put. He had a joy that would sustain him through whatever came. The jailer thought the prisoners had escaped. When he discovered that they had chosen to stay, he was moved by their joy. He turned to Paul and Silas and asked them, "What must I do to be saved?" Their joy turned into an opportunity to tell someone else about Jesus.

## **DRIVE IT HOME:**

You can have the same joy that our hero Paul had. The joy that Noah, Abraham, Joseph and Moses had. It's the joy of the Lord. It's the joy that saw Joshua and Deborah and Gideon through. It's the joy that Ruth found, as well as David and Solomon. Peter and John spoke of the joy that comes from knowing Jesus as your Savior. It's a joy that fills you and will never leave you – even in the hard times.

If you don't know Jesus today, I invite you to ask him into your life. Talk to your parents or small group leader about confessing your sins to him and letting him make you a new person. Let him give you joyfulness.

And share that joy with others. Paul's joy changed the life of his jailer. Your joy can change the lives of your family, your friends, and even strangers. When you live for God with joy, people are drawn to it. And they'll want what you've got.

Heroes aren't just in the pages of this Bible. There are heroes walking among us today. They are the men and women and kids who live for Jesus and let him lead them. You can be one of those heroes.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for heroes that show us what it means to be joyful. Be with us, God, and give us all of the virtues that make for a great hero.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER

What has been your favorite Bible hero story?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Create a simple beat – right hand to the right thigh, left hand to the left thigh, hand clap, repeat. Say the verse together to the rhythm of the beat. Say the verse several times as the beat gets faster.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Using strips of construction paper, create rings that you link together to make a prison chain. Let it serve as a reminder to be joyful in all circumstances.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Read Acts 16:16-36.**

Who did Paul encounter on his way to the place of prayer?

What happened after Paul drove a spirit out of the slave girl?

Who was arrested with Paul?

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

How can you have joyfulness?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Fill us with the same joy that you gave to Paul.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER

What has been your favorite Bible hero story?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Create a simple beat – right hand to the right thigh, left hand to the left thigh, hand clap, repeat. Say the verse together to the rhythm of the beat. Say the verse several times as the beat gets faster.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Using strips of construction paper, create rings that you link together to make a prison chain. Let it serve as a reminder to be joyful in all circumstances.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Read Acts 16:16-36.**

Why did Paul drive a spirit out of the slave girl?

Why were the people not happy that Paul had driven the evil spirit out of the girl?

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

Why didn't Paul and Silas escape when they had the chance?

How can you have joyfulness?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Fill us with the same joy that you gave to Paul.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### TRUE or FALSE

Paul drove a spirit out of a slave girl.

TRUE

The slave girl's owners were happy that Paul had freed her of the spirit.

FALSE

Paul and Silas were arrested and chained together.

TRUE

When an earthquake shook the prison, Paul made his escape.

FALSE

The jailer became a follower of Jesus that night.

TRUE



# MAKE IT STICK

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

## Bible Heroes Lesson 12

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PAUL



#### IN THE CAR:

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

Today we learned that big heroes are joyful. Paul had driven an evil spirit from a woman. Because of it, Paul and Silas were arrested and put in prison. Even in prison, the men were filled with joyfulness. They spent the night singing songs and praising God. That joy and contentment was infectious, even causing Paul's jailor to put his trust in God. We can also learn to be joyful and content no matter the circumstances.



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Paul and Silas sang and prayed while they were in jail. Take some time this week to sing and pray with your kids. Sing their favorite songs – belt them out while you're driving or dance with them in your living room. Make it an excuse to have some silly fun with them. Pray with your kids that they would have joy in all circumstance.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why were Paul and Silas thrown in jail?
- How did Paul and Silas show their joy while in prison?
- How can we have joyfulness in all circumstances?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*



#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

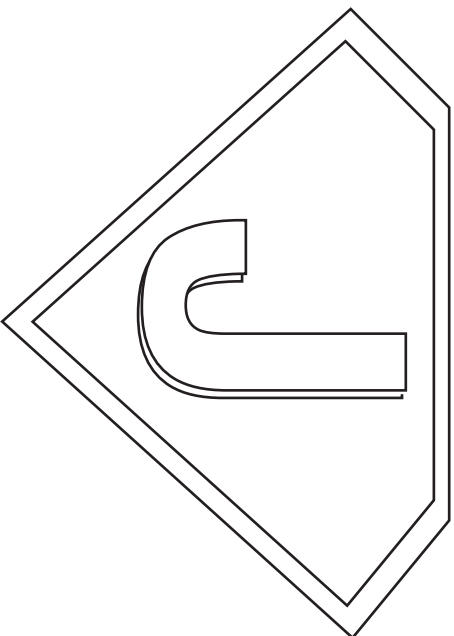
This week, seek out resources – books, blogs, podcasts, music – that speak about the joy of the Lord. Immerse yourself in God's presence and feel the joy that comes only from him.



## CRAFT PROJECT

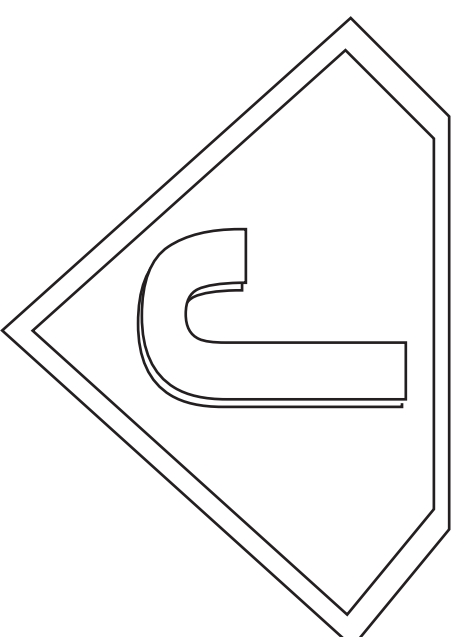
Give each child markers and a pen to draw his/her favorite hero or heroes from the last twelve weeks. The drawing can be a picture of the hero's face, as the kids imagine it to look; or it can be a depiction of a scene from that hero's story.

If possible, set aside wall space to display these pictures to create a Hero Hall of Fame.



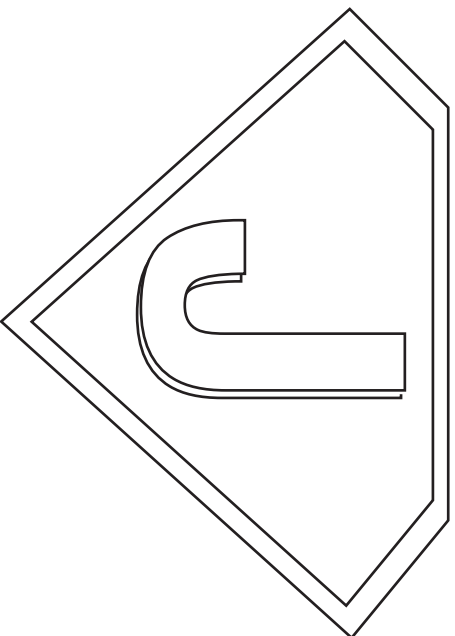
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



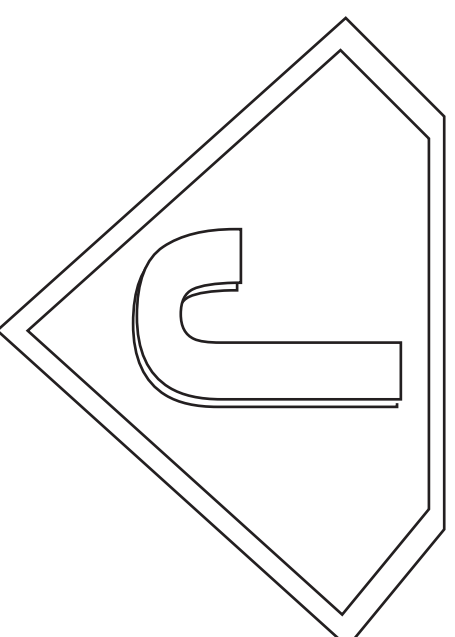
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)