

## WEEK 5 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

the messengers



### THE BIG IDEA

God sends help.

### THE BIBLE

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

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Messenger Melodies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "Jesus Loves Me Remix" (Kidspring)
  - "Shout It Out" (Yancy)
  - "Let's Go Heroes" (Kidspring)
  - "I am Yours" (Life Church Kids)
  - "We're Not Scared" (Kidspring)

### ACTIVITY | Chain Reaction

- Welcome to the last week of "The Messengers"! We've been talking about the people who delivered God's message all over the world.
- **Can you name some of the people we've talked about this month?** [Kids might say, Saul/Paul, Peter, Tabitha, Lydia, etc.]
- When we get the good news about Jesus, we want other people to get the message, too. And then those people tell more people and pretty soon, and so on!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids create their own domino line. When everyone is done have them push the first domino down to show a chain reaction.
  - ✳ **TODDLER HACK:** For very young children, use larger wooden blocks rather than domino tiles.

### ACTIVITY | Hula Help Heroes

- **When people need to be rescued, who do they ask for help?** Maybe firefighters, ambulance drivers, forest rangers, nurses, teachers, and more.
- Let's play a game where you all get to be helping heroes!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create two teams. Have one kid from each team be the first rescuer, and place the rest of the team at the other end of the room to be rescued. The rescuer will run over with a hula hoop "life preserver" to rescue one person by putting the hula hoop around the both of them and running back to the start line. Then, the first rescuer will join the rest of the group to be rescued while the first rescued person becomes the next rescuer, running over to rescue a second person with the hula hoop. Repeat until everyone has been rescued. The first team to finish wins!*
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *To help prevent possible injuries, only have the kid being rescued in the hula hoop, not both kids.*

## TEACHING TIME

### BIBLE STORY | Paul and Silas in Prison

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As you tell the story from Acts 16:16–34, pause every now and then to add a strip of paper to a paper chain. At the end of the story, "break" the chain to show how God rescued Paul and Silas.*
- When sharing the good news of Jesus, not everyone is always happy about it.
- Two men named Paul and Silas were going around sharing the good news with others.
- An angry crowd did not like what Paul and Silas were saying. This crowd threw them in prison!
  - Going to jail must have been scary!
  - **What do you think Paul and Silas were doing while they were there?**
- They sang hymns and prayed!
  - **What kind of song would you sing if you were in jail?**
- Then, while they were singing and the other prisoners were listening, something shocking happened! A big earthquake happened everyone was set free!
  - **Let's pretend to shake like an earthquake!**
- The jailer who was supposed to watch everyone inside got so scared. He knew he would get in trouble if everyone escaped.
  - But nobody ran away.
- The jailer was surprised that everybody was still in their cells. He knew that whoever Paul and Silas were talking about had to be real.
- So Paul and Silas told the jailer all about God and then, he and his whole family decided to follow Jesus!
- God helped Paul and Silas get out of jail, and Paul and Silas were able to help the jailer and his family!

**BIG IDEA | God sends help.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the Special Messenger (SM) come in with a wagon full of packages as described, as well as an envelope with a card inside.
- **SM:** Special delivery! Special delivery!
- **Storyteller:** Wow! What do you have there? Is all of that for me?
- **SM:** Well, most of these are for people who need help. I have band-aids for people that are hurt, food for those who are hungry, and a flood bucket for people who are cleaning up after a huge storm flooded their city. All of this was collected to help people who are facing tough times. But this letter is for you. It looks like an invitation!
- **Storyteller:** (Opens envelope and reads card.) You are invited to help others in need. **God sends help**, and sometimes, God sends help through us!
- **SM:** That's the big idea for today! **God sends help.**
- **Storyteller:** Great! Everybody say it with me. **God sends help.**

**VIDEO | The Messengers, Episode 5**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

**ACTIVITY | Earthquake!**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This game is a variation of "Red Light Green Light." Have kids find a partner and link arms. You (the leader) are the jailer. When the jailer's back is turned, each pair inches toward the jailer WHILE singing something. When the jailer turns around, everyone freezes. Anyone caught moving or singing "goes to jail" (links arms with the jailer). If a pair makes it to the jailer and taps you while your back is turned, the jailer yells EARTHQUAKE! Everyone can un-link arms and run back to the starting line.

**PRAYER**

- God, thank you for sending help. We know that whenever we are in trouble, you are always there for us. We want to help others, too. Teach us how we can send help to people who need it. Amen.

**DISCUSSION TIME**

**SNACK | Please Deliver To**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare snacks inside a [food envelope](#) and seal it with a sticker. Write each kid's name on the front and ask for helpers to deliver each envelope to the right person.
- **Why did Paul and Silas end up in prison?**
- **What did Paul and Silas do while in jail?**
- **What made the jailer believe that Paul and Silas were God's messengers?**

### ACTIVITY | Pipecleaner Prayer Chain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide pipe cleaners. Show kids how to loop the ends together to make a circle, then loop another through it to make a chain. Talk about different people who they can help as they make each loop.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Make a bracelet by tying a pipecleaner around the wrist of each toddler. Tell them this bracelet is to help them remember to talk to God. Make sure you fold over the ends of the pipecleaner well so they don't poke kids.
- **What are some things you need help with?**
- **When is a time you've helped someone else?**
- There are many people who need help. Some are people we know. Some are people we've never met that live far away.
- Let's make a prayer chain to remember who to pray for. And you never know . . . sometimes God might use you to send help!

### ACTIVITY | Handy Helpers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use stamp pads or washable paint and have each kid make a hand print on their paper. Use a hair dryer to help dry the artwork. As the paper is drying ask them the following question.
- **What can you do today to help someone?**
- Let's draw a picture of how we can help in the middle of our handprints.

### MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Say the memory verse together a couple of times by having kids repeat after you. Then start saying the verse then stop and pretend like you forgot what word comes next. Ask the kids for help and see if they can supply the word that comes next. Try this a few times, "forgetting" a new word each time.
- **"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"**

## PLAY TIME

*While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .*

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTION:** Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Discuss today's Bible story and Big Idea as kids color.

### ACTIVITY | Lock and Key

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a set of locks and keys (easy toy ones [like these](#)). Have kids try to match each key to the right lock. For an added challenge, make it a race between teams.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Instead of having toddlers search for the right key, present them with the matching lock and key and have them try and open the lock.*

**ACTIVITY | Care Package**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Talk to families beforehand and have kids bring food items you can donate to a local food bank, soup kitchen, or homeless shelter. Have kids package boxes and decorate the boxes!*

*Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.*