

# 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group Lesson



**Session Title:** Paul's Joy in Prison

**Bible Passage:** Philippians 1:12-30

**Main Point:** While he was in prison, Paul told the Philippian church to be joyful.

**Key Passage:** Philippians 1:20-21

**Big Picture Question:** When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.

**Christ Connection:** *God used Paul's difficult circumstances to spread the gospel and build the church. Paul knew that because Jesus suffered to bring salvation to the world, believers doing God's work would suffer too.*

## Smile/Frown Activity

*Materials: 2 chairs, Smile/Frown face sheet, & tape*

Print the Smile/Frown sheet below and cut the sheet in half. Set up 2 chairs 5 feet apart. Tape the smiling face on one chair and the frowning face on the other. Give a list of events, items, or circumstances and invite the group to show if it makes them smile or frown by standing next to the chair of their choice. After calling each item, ask a few volunteers to share why they picked that face.

Suggestions:

- going on a roller coaster
- being sick
- eating food from the school cafeteria
- being picked to be on a team
- reading a book
- going to prison
- forgetting homework
- winning a game

**Circumstances like these often make us happy or sad. Paul was in prison, a situation that would make most people sad. While he was in prison, Paul told the Philippian church to be joyful. Joyful! Paul was joyful because he was joined to Jesus. He knew that no matter what happened to him, he could still be joyful because Jesus had rescued him from sin and death.**



# Draw the Emotion

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TGP FAMILY APP

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Add faces to the people below to show how they might feel in their situations.



**KEY PASSAGE:**

Philippians 1:20-21

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus, even when it is difficult.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**PAUL'S JOY IN PRISON**

- Paul remained a prisoner for a long time.
- Paul wrote letters to churches since he could not visit them.
- While he was in prison, Paul told the Philippians church to be joyful.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- Where did Paul's joy come from?
- Do you think you would feel joyful while in prison?
- How can we have the same joy Paul felt?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Take your family to get a treat, like ice cream, and discuss the differences between feeling happy and having lasting joy.
- Help your kids write letters to loved ones who they haven't seen in a while.

*Younger Kids Activity Pages*  
Unit 34, Session 4

