Book Fair | Week 3 | January 18, 2026
Adapted by Niki P/Venture Church/Dec. 2025

BOOK FAIR

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: Paul and Silas • Acts 16:16-40
I can pray to God.

MEMORY VERSE: "*Your word is truth.*" *(John 17:17 NIrV)*

KEY QUESTION: What does the Bible teach you?

BOTTOM LINE: The Bible teaches me the best things.

OPENING ACTIVITY: Anywhere, Anytime, Anything

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Emotions

CRAFT: Pray Anytime

CLOSING ACTIVITY: Shaking Ground

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OPENING ACTIVITY | Anywhere, Anytime, Anything

What You Need:

- ☐ "Anytime, Anywhere, Anything" Activity Page
- ☐ "Anytime, Anywhere, Anything Sentence" Activity Page
- ☐ 11-inch by 17-inch paper
- ☐ Small, plastic bins, three per Small Group
- ☐ Scissors

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

***Before the Activity*:**

- Place the picture cards into three separate bins according to the type of picture.

- "We're going to play a game where we build a sentence to learn something we can do anytime, anywhere, and about anything!"

During the Activity:

- Choose three volunteers (one for each pile). Each child picks a card from their assigned category (time, place, topic). Help them place the cards into the sentence strip. Read the sentence out loud with motions or voice changes to keep it fun! Repeat with different children and combinations so everyone gets a turn.

"There are three bins with different pictures. I need three helpers. *(Call three children up to the table.)* Let's build our first sentence.

[Child's name], pick one card from the first bin and place it on this first blank. *(Pause.)*

Now [child's name], pick a card from the second bin and place it on the second blank. *(Point.)* Great!

Now, [child's name], pick a card from the third bin and place it on the third blank. *(Pause.)*

Fantastic! You just built a sentence! When I point to the picture you picked, tell me what it is. *(Point to the words as you read.)*

I can pray *(Point to the first picture and pause for child to describe the picture.)* [in the morning/at night] ...

(Point to the second picture and pause for child to describe the picture) at the [place] about ...

(Point to the last picture and pause for child to describe the picture.) [thing].

Thank you for building a great sentence! *(Place cards back in the bins and mix them up.)* Let's have some other friends build one. *(Call three different children and assign them to each bin. Continue until each child has a turn.)*

That was so fun building sentences about when and where and what we can pray about."

After the Activity:

- "Do you know who else prayed anytime, anywhere, and about anything? Two of Jesus' friends were named Paul and Silas! Let's hear what happened when they prayed."

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MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY | Emotions

What You Need: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:
***Before the Activity*:**

- Say the Memory Verse as you do the motions together.

- "Friends, come stand with me, and let's say our verse together as we do the motions. 'Your *(point up)* word *(open hands like a book)* is truth,' *(move index finger forward from mouth)* John 17:17. *(Open hands like a book.)* Great job everyone!"

During the Activity:

- Do the motions as you say the verse with different emotions.

- "Let's say the verse with different emotions! Let's say it sad. *(Act sad* 'Your *(point up)* word *(open hands like a book)* is truth,' *(move index finger forward from mouth)* John 17:17. *(Open hands like a book.)* Let's do it again but this time let's say it with a mad face. *(Furrow your brow and repeat the verse.)* What about silly? *(Make a silly voice and repeat the verse*.) Okay, last time let's say it happy. *(Make your happiest, biggest smile and repeat the verse.)* Fantastic! That was my favorite!"

After the Activity:

- "The Bible teaches us the best things like we can pray anywhere, anytime, about anything just like Paul and Silas did in our Bible Story today. **What does the Bible teach you? *[Bottom Line]* The Bible teaches me the best things.** That's right friends."

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CRAFT | Pray Anytime

What You Need:

- ☐ "Pray Anytime" Activity Page
- ☐ Dot markers or washable markers
- ☐ Self-adhesive VELCRO® dots
- ☐ Scissors

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- "Friends! Come sit with me at the table. Let's make a watch today. Do you know what a watch is? *(Pause.)* A watch is something you wear on your wrist that helps you know what time it is."

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to color their watch cutouts. Measure the band around each child's wrist and cut the non-buckle end to size. Adhere the bumpy side of the VELCRO® to the front side of the band on the cut end and the smooth side of the VELCRO® to the back side of the buckle end. Help children put on their watches.

- "Use the markers to decorate your watch. *(Pause.)* Super! Let's measure it around your wrist. *(Cut as needed and add the adhesive dots.)* Now your watch is ready to wear! *(Help put each child's watch on.)* Your watch can help you remember that you can pray and talk to God anywhere and at any time, just like Paul and Silas."

After the Activity:

- "In our Bible Story, Paul and Silas chose to stay at the jail to tell the guard that God loves him and that Jesus wants to be his friend forever. Then the guard decided to love God and follow Jesus, too. We can pray to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything, just like Paul and Silas! The Bible has God's words in it, and it teaches us the BEST things! **What does the Bible teach you? *[Bottom Line]* The Bible teaches me the best things."**

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BIBLE STORY

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.
"Today's Bible story begins with two men named Paul and Silas.

"Paul and Silas were friends with Jesus, and they loved God. They told everyone everywhere that Jesus wanted to be their friend forever.

"Everyone, say this with me: Jesus wants to be your friend forever!"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Jesus wants to be your friend forever!"

LEADER: "Great job! That's what Paul and Silas were doing. They wanted everyone to know that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.

"One day, some people who did not love Jesus got upset with Paul and Silas. They tried to stop Paul and Silas by putting them in jail!

"Jail is not a fun place. When you are in jail, you have to stay in the same room all day. You cannot play with your friends or see your family whenever you want. It sounds very sad, doesn't it?

"But Paul and Silas knew God loved them, so guess what they did?

"Paul and Silas prayed and talked to God. *(Fold your hands like you are praying.)*

"Can you fold your hands like you are praying? *(Listen.)* Yes, Paul and Silas prayed and talked to God.

"And they also sang songs to God! Can you sing with me?

(Sing a few simple notes for children to repeat, or consider singing "Jesus Loves Me.")

"Great singing! Paul and Silas knew that even though they were in jail, God still loved them, and they could pray and talk to God.

"While Paul and Silas were praying and singing, everyone in the jail was listening to them.
And then suddenly, the ground began to shake. It was an earthquake!

"Can you shake your whole body*? (Shake your body.)*

"Oh, it's an earthquake! Whoa! And three … two … one … *(Stop shaking and freeze.)*

(Quietly.) "The earthquake stopped. *(Pause until everyone stops shaking.)*

"The earthquake shook the jail from top to bottom. And the doors of jail flew wide open! Paul and Silas could walk right out! But … Paul and Silas did not leave. They stayed in the jail.

"Paul and Silas spoke to the guard who was in charge of the jail.

"They told the guard that God loves him and that Jesus wants to be his friend forever. And the guard decided to love God and follow Jesus too.

"Wow! Paul and Silas knew they could pray and talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything, and we can pray and talk to God, too.

“Tell me: can we pray and talk to God when it’s early in the morning or late at night? *(Listen.)* Yes! We can pray to God at any time of the day.

“Can we pray and talk to God when we are at the doctor, at school, or at the fair? *(Listen.)* Yes! We can pray to God wherever we are!

“Can we pray and talk to God when we are feeling happy, sad, silly, or mad? *(Listen.)* Yes! We can pray to God about anything!

“We can pray and talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything, just like Paul and Silas! And we know this because we can read about Paul and Silas in the Bible.

“The Bible has God’s words in it, and it teaches us the BEST things! **What does the Bible teach you?”**

CHILDREN and LEADER: *[Bottom Line]* “The Bible teaches me the best things.!”

LEADER: “Yes, ***[Bottom Line]* The Bible teaches me the best things. *(****Pick up and close Bible.)***

“Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”

PRAYER - Dear God, thank you for giving us the Bible so we can learn more about you. Thank you for hearing us when we pray. Help us remember that we can always talk to you—anytime, anywhere and about anything. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CLOSING ACTIVITY | Shaking Ground

What You Need:

- ☐ Wooden Blocks
- ☐ Metal Cookie Sheets

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Set out a cookie sheet and a small stack of blocks at each group's spot.

- "Friends, come over to the table. Today we are going to work together in groups."

During the Activity:

- Encourage the children to place the blocks on their cookie sheet. Ask each group to gently shake their cookie sheet and watch what happens. Repeat as desired.

- "Work with your group to make a design with these blocks on the cookie sheet. *(Pause.)* Great job! Now grab hold of your tray and gently move it back and forth. *(Pause.)* Whoa! What happened? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, when you shook your tray, the blocks moved. Let's rebuild and try again. *(Repeat as desired.)* We made the earth shake and that moved the blocks all around."

After the Activity:

- "In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about a time when there was an earthquake that opened up some doors and we'll find out what happened after that!"