

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 16:16-40
- In This Passage: Paul and Silas heal a girl who is demon-possessed, which upsets people who were using her for money. They get Paul and Silas beaten and thrown in jail. But God is watching over them, and sends an earthquake to give them a chance to tell the jailer about Jesus and set them free.
- Bible Point: God is watching over his family.
- Summary Verse: “And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near” (Hebrews 10:25).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is watching over his family.* This concept can be both comforting and confusing, as some kids have gone through difficult situations where it seems like God didn't come through. Help kids see that no matter the outcome, God is watching over us, cares about what's going on, and won't leave our sides.
- Think About: When have you most needed to know God was watching over you?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for kids to trust God to care about them and watch over them.

Quick Tip

- Having a safe environment will help reinforce the message that God is watching over kids. Review your safety procedures. Is your children's area secure? Are your checkout procedures safe? Do you have clear emergency plans? Are all volunteers background checked?

This Lesson at a Glance



MUSIC VIDEO

Preschoolers sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (watch or download [here](#))
- “It Is Well With My Soul” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Watching Over You” (watch or download [here](#))



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Recommended for elementary kids.

Supplies

- “Bryan’s Story” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible*



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers watch over a ping-pong ball.

Supplies

- ping-pong balls
- table
- level (optional)



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers learn a fingerplay about Paul and Silas.

Supplies

- Bible



DEEPER BIBLE

Preschoolers have a role reversal and take care of the grown-ups.

Supplies

- toy cars
- ball
- play food



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play Jailbreak Tag.

Supplies

- chairs
- upbeat music (optional)

Classroom: Monkeys

- music player (optional)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers practice watching items closely.

Supplies

- Bible*
- classroom toys



CRAFT

Preschoolers make safety vests.

Supplies

- orange construction paper
- hole punches
- yarn
- scissors
- chrome-colored duct tape
- toy cars (optional)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers sing a song.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



MUSIC VIDEO
Great Is Thy Faithfulness

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (watch or download [here](#))
- “It Is Well With My Soul” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Watching Over You” (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can choose your own worship songs from our Best Of Dig In Music DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Bryan's Story

[10 min]

Supplies

- "Bryan's Story" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or purchase DVDs [here](#).

Discuss and Watch "Bryan's Story"

Say: **We're learning that God is watching over his family.**

Ask: • **Tell about the scariest weather you've been in.** Share your own example first.

Say: **Today we'll meet a kid who went through some really, really scary weather. We'll see how even though it was scary, God watched over him.**

Watch "Bryan's Story."

Ask: • **What are some examples of how God watched over Bryan and his family?**

- **Bryan said his parents gave him courage. Who helps you trust God to watch over you?**

- **Reading the Bible and praying helps Bryan get past his fear. How have those things helped you?**

Say: **God is watching over his family. That doesn't mean nothing bad will ever happen. But God is with us in hard times, and he's watching over us, just as he watched over Bryan.**



OPENING Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible*

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, teach preschoolers how to give “hand hugs” by putting their palms against the palms of a friend and wrapping their thumbs around the other person’s hand.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say “happy birthday” in a squeaky voice.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll learn God is watching over his family...even when we’re scared. So let’s start by talking about what we do when we’re scared.**

Share

- Share about a song *you* sing when you're sad or scared.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about songs *they* sing when they’re sad or scared. They might also think of songs a loved one sings to them.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **When people in the Bible were scared, they sang songs to God! And God was watching over them. Let’s read about it in the Bible, but first, let’s talk with God.**

Pray, asking God to watch over his family.



OBJECT LESSON Don't Let It Fall

[10 min]

Supplies

- ping-pong balls
- table
- level (optional)

Keep a Ball on a Table

Say: **We've been learning that God is watching over his family.**

Sometimes we're in scary situations! But we know God is with us and taking care of us. Like this!

- If you have a level, put it on a table. Show kids where the bubble is, and explain how you use the bubble to tell if something is level.
- Have an adult or teen helper lift one end of the table a few inches off the ground, and show how the table is *not* level.
- Explain that when a table is not level, something round, like a ball, will roll right off! Put a ping-pong ball on the table to demonstrate.
- Say that even though the table is not safe for the ball, kids can help by watching over the ball.
- Have kids gather around the table and bat the ball back up whenever it rolls near the low edge.
- If you'd like, add a few more ping-pong balls for kids to watch over.

Talk About It

Say: **It was okay for the ball to be on that scary table that wasn't level because we were watching over the ball and keeping it safe.**

Ask: • **Who keeps you safe?**

Say: **We're lucky to have grown-ups who care about us and keep us safe. And we also know that God is watching over his family. He will protect you!**



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Paul and Silas Face Dangers (Acts 16:16-40)

[20 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Learn a Fingerplay

Say: **Today's Bible story is about two of Jesus' friends. Can you hold up two fingers?**

Hold up your pointer finger on each hand to demonstrate.

Great job! Those two fingers will be Jesus' friends, Paul and Silas.

Let's use our fingers to learn what happened. Copy what I do.

Demonstrate the actions, and allow time for kids to follow as you say this rhyme.

Paul and Silas walked through town, *(make fingers move as if walking)*

Looking for a place to go sit down. *(put fingers on lap or floor)*

They were going off to pray, *(bend fingers)*

But a girl had something to say. *(raise a pinkie finger)*

This poor girl needed some care, *(wiggle pinkie finger)*

So Paul turned around right then and there. *(swirl finger)*

He said, "Jesus, help her out!" *(move finger as if it is talking)*

And Jesus healed her, there's no doubt. *(make all fingers jump up and down quickly)*

That made some guys really mad, *(turn fingers as if looking at someone)*

So then those guys did something so bad. *(make fingers jump one time, as if startled)*

They got Silas thrown in jail, *(put one hand behind your back)*

And Paul went too, they didn't fail. *(put other hand behind your back)*

Paul and Silas were chained and trapped, *(bring hands back out with pointer fingers up, but hold them low and close to you)*

But they knew God would have their back. *(point up)*

They prayed to God and sang some songs, *(move fingers as if talking)*

While others heard and hummed along. *(put all fingers up and wiggle)*

Sing a Song

Say: **Hey! I have an idea! Let's sing a song like they did!**

Teach kids this song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." As you sing, make your fingers move as if singing.

God, you're watching over me,

Help us now, set us free!

God, you're watching over me,

Cuz we are family.

Continue the Fingerplay

After singing the song a few times, resume the fingerplay.

As Paul and Silas sang their song, *(move fingers as if singing)*

Something happened, sudden and strong! *(stand fingers straight up)*

An earthquake came and shook the jail, *(shake your fingers)*

And everyone began to flail! *(continue shaking fingers)*

Classroom: Monkeys

Their chains fell off, they could be free! (*make fingers jump up and down*)

But Paul and Silas didn't flee. (*hold fingers still*)

They stayed to talk to the prison guard, (*raise thumb to be the guard*)

Who took the earthquake very hard. (*make thumb tremble*)

They told the guard about their faith, (*bend fingers as if talking*)

How Jesus loved and kept them safe. (*point up*)

The guard then joined God's family, (*bend thumb*)

With his wife and kids, hooray, yippee! (*raise all fingers and make them wiggle excitedly*)

God watched over Silas and Paul, (*make pointer fingers "look" up*)

He kept them safe through it all. (*hold fingers all close together*)

He helped them share about his love, (*cross fingers*)

He's always watching from above. (*make fingers "look" down*)

"Go" Different Places

Say: **We used our fingers to learn how God is watching over his family. God watched over Paul and Silas! He kept them safe and helped them tell the jailer about Jesus.**

Paul and Silas were in a scary place. But they believed God would help them! Let's use our fingers to imagine walking to different places where we need God to watch over us.

Make your pointer and middle finger into legs and "walk" around you. Have kids do the same. Then stop, lay your fingers down, and say: **When we're lying in bed and it's dark and scary, God is watching over us.**

Continue making your fingers "walk" to these places:

- Make fingers fall suddenly. **When we fall on the playground and hurt ourselves, God is watching over us.**
- Make fingers jump as if startled. **When we hear loud and scary thunder, God is watching over us.**
- Walk fingers slowly backward. **When we see a big, scary dog, God is watching over us.**
- Walk fingers slowly and then turn hand as if it's "looking" around. **When we go to a new place for the first time, God is watching over us.**

Ask: • **What are some things you think are scary?** For each answer, have kids "walk" their fingers to that scary thing and say, "God is watching over us."

Say: **Sometimes life is scary or sad. But no matter what happens, God is watching over his family. And when you love Jesus, you're in God's family!**

**DEEPER BIBLE**
Role Reversal

[15 min]

Supplies

- toy cars
- ball
- play food

Help the Leaders

Say: **God is watching over his family. And one way he watches over you is by having grown-ups take good care of you.**

But right now, you get to be the grown-ups! We're going to need you to watch over us!

You and all the other adult leaders can dramatically act out the following, pausing for kids to watch over you and act like the adults in their lives might behave in each situation.

- Fight over a toy.
- Act scared.
- Act like you are about to climb onto a chair or do something else dangerous.
- Make a line of cars and tell kids to pretend it's a real street. Roll a ball into the street and run to get it.
- If you have a play kitchen, tell kids to pretend the stove is hot, and reach like you are about to touch it.
- Pretend to cry. Tell kids you are sad because you lost your [name a toy that's in the room].
- Announce that you aren't going to go to bed even though it's bedtime.
- Get a plate of play food and announce that you won't eat your vegetables.

Ask: • **What did you think about being the ones in charge?**

Say: **It's hard to be in charge! That's why God gives you grown-ups to help take care of you. And God is watching over his family. He's always there to help you!**

**HIGH-ENERGY GAME****Jailbreak Tag****[10 min]****Supplies**

- chairs
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program [here](#).

Play Jailbreak Tag

Set several chairs along a wall.

Say: **We're going to play Tag. If you get tagged, you have to go to jail—which means sitting in one of these chairs.**

But just like the earthquake came to break off Paul and Silas' chains, an earthquake might set you free from jail! Whenever I call "Earthquake!" anyone in jail can shout, "Jesus loves you!" and then run free.

- Choose a child to be the Tagger.
- If you'd like, play music during the game.
- Remind kids where to go if they get tagged.
- Periodically call "Earthquake!" and remind preschoolers to shout, "Jesus loves you!" before they run free.
- Switch up who the Tagger is every now and then.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was fun about this game?**

Say: **In this game, I was watching over you. I wanted to make sure you had fun, and sitting in jail for very long isn't fun! So I called "earthquake" so you could play again. In the Bible story, God was watching over Paul and Silas. He sent an earthquake to help them tell the guard about Jesus and get out of prison. God is watching over his family.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Lost and Found

[10 min]

Supplies

- Bible*
- classroom toys

Find Lost Items

Say: **Let's play a hiding game! I'm going to hide this toy.**
Hold up a small toy.

Have kids face a wall and close their eyes as you hide the toy. Walk around the room and "pretend" to hide it in many locations before you finally place it somewhere, so you stump kids.

Say: **Okay! Can you find it?**

Play a few rounds of the game, letting whoever found the toy hide it next, with the help of an adult or teen helper. After the game,

Ask: • **How did you know where to find the toy?**

Watch Where Items Go

Say: **You did a good job of looking for the lost toy. But you didn't always know right where the toy was because you weren't watching it! Let's try again. This time, you'll keep your eye on the toy the whole time.**

Help kids form pairs, and give each pair a toy. Tap one partner in each pair and explain that the one you tapped will go hide the toy. But this time, the other partner can stand at the wall facing *out*, and can watch where the toy is hidden.

After all toys are recovered, have partners trade roles and try again.

Ask: • **How did you know where to find the toy this time?**

Say: **You always knew right where the toy was this time because you were watching it! That's like how God is watching over his family. He always knows right where we are and how we feel. He is always with us, and he cares about us!**



CRAFT Safety Vests

[20 min]

Supplies

- orange construction paper
- hole punches
- yarn
- scissors
- chrome-colored duct tape
- toy cars (optional)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make a Safety Vest

Say: **God is watching over his family.**

Ask: • **Tell about people who have jobs to keep other people safe.**

Say: **One kind of person that keeps us safe is a crossing guard. They stop cars so we can safely cross the street. And they wear safety vests so the people driving the cars can easily see them. Let's make our own safety vests to remind us of how crossing guards watch over us.**

Wear your sample craft. Then follow these directions to help preschoolers make their own safety vests.

- Give each preschooler two pieces of orange construction paper.
- Have preschoolers punch two holes near the corners of their papers.
- Have leaders help preschoolers cut yarn that's the right length for their shoulders.
- Leaders can help preschoolers tie the yarn and try on their vests.

Classroom: Monkeys

- When kids know their vests fit right, have kids remove them and decorate them using long strips of chrome-colored duct tape. (Leaders can tear the strips of tape to hand to kids.)
- If you have extra time, make a street in your room using toy cars, and have kids take turns being the crossing guard who tells the other kids when to cross.

Talk About It

Say: **God is watching over his family. Like a crossing guard keeps you safe, so does God! He kept Paul and Silas safe even when they were in a scary prison.**

Encourage preschoolers to take their crafts home and wear them for their friends and family. Let preschoolers know they can be pretend crossing guards, but only *inside* on pretend roads.

**LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP****God, You're Watching Over Me**

[5 min]

Sing a Song

Say: **Today we learned that God is watching over his family. Earlier we sang a song like one Paul and Silas might have sung. Let's repeat that.** Lead kids in singing this song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

**God, you're watching over me,
Help us now, set us free!
God, you're watching over me,
Cuz we are family.**

Say: **Now let's add more verses to ask God to watch over us.**

**God, you're watching over me,
When it's loud and lightning!
God, you're watching over me,
Cuz we are family.**

**God, you're watching over me,
When it's dark and scary!
God, you're watching over me,
Cuz we are family.**

**God, you're watching over me,
When I'm sad or angry!
God, you're watching over me,
Cuz we are family.**

- Pray: **God, thank you that you are watching over your family. Help me trust you when I am scared or sad. In Jesus' name, amen.**
- Thank kids for coming to church, and tell them you hope to see them next week.