

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

Kids 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

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible point.

Supplies

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



OBJECT LESSON

Kids watch over a ping-pong ball.

Supplies

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



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible*



DEEPER BIBLE

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

Supplies

- toy cars
- ball
- play food



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids imagine watching the story take place as they make sound effects.

Supplies

- Bible



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play Jailbreak Tag.

Supplies

- chairs
- upbeat music (optional)

Classroom: Adventure

- music player (optional)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids practice watching items closely.

Supplies

- Bible*
- classroom toys



CRAFT

Kids 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

Kids share prayer requests.

**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.**



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?**

• **How does God keep you safe when you're in a scary situation?**

Say: **We're lucky to have adults who care about us and keep us safe.**

And we also know that God is watching over his family. He will protect you!



OPENING Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible*

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, teach kids 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 kids 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 pairs, have kids share about songs *they* sing when they’re sad or scared. They might also think of songs a loved one sings to them.
- After pairs have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their pairs.

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.



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 adults take good care of you.**

But right now, you get to be the adults! 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 adults to help take care of you. And God is watching over his family. He's always there to help you!**



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

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

[20 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Imagine

Say: Today we're learning that God is watching over his family. Let's do something. Look around our room.

Ask: • Describe what you see.

Say: Now close your eyes and imagine God's point of view. When God is watching over us here today, what does he see?

Ask: • Keeping your eyes closed, describe what you imagine God sees. What's different?

Say: God is watching over his family. That includes us here today! We don't know exactly what our room looks like to God, but we can imagine. Maybe he sees us from above. Maybe he sees more than we do...like he sees angels around us, or he sees inside our hearts and minds.

We'll use this same imagination technique to learn about today's Bible story. But we'll make some sound effects so we can hear it, too!

Heal a Girl

Say: As I read today's Bible story, keep your eyes closed. Since this Bible story is about God's family a long time ago, and God is watching over his family, let's imagine what God saw.

The story is about Paul and Silas, so picture what they might have looked like. Pause.

Paul and Silas were heading to a place to pray when this girl started following them and shouting about them. Let's shout out, "Hey!" Lead kids in shouting, "Hey!" several times.

This kept happening, and Paul got annoyed. He knew the girl was shouting because she needed Jesus to heal her. So Paul healed her! God is watching over his family.

Ask: • What do you imagine God saw when Paul healed the girl?

Say: God was probably happy that Paul used Jesus' power to heal someone. But not everyone was so happy. You see, people were using this girl's sickness to make money. Now they couldn't!

Get Arrested

Say: Let's watch in our minds as we hear how those people reacted.

Read Acts 16:19-21.

Say: Let's make the sound of an angry mob. Lead kids in the sound effects, while keeping their eyes closed.

Ask: • What do you imagine God saw at this point in the story?

- If you could reach out and help Paul and Silas, what would you do?

Say: Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown in jail. Let's make the sound of a slamming prison door. Pause.

They were put in chains. Let's make clanking noises. Pause.

Ask: • What do you imagine God saw when he watched these awful things happening to Paul and Silas?

• As you're watching this scene in your mind, what's one thing you'd like to do to help Paul and Silas?

Say: God is watching over his family. That doesn't mean nothing bad will ever happen to us. Bad things happened to Paul and Silas. But God was with them, and God had a plan to help them.

Classroom: Adventure

Paul and Silas knew God was with them, so here's what they did in jail.

Read Acts 16:25.

Say: **Let's make singing sound effects.** Lead kids in singing a familiar song, such as "Jesus Loves Me," while keeping their eyes closed

Ask: • **Describe what you think God sees when people sing to him.**

Have an Earthquake

Say: **Paul and Silas knew God is watching over his family. And they were right! Because this is what happened next.**

Read Acts 16:26.

Say: **Let's stomp our feet to make earthquake sounds.** Lead kids in stomping, while keeping their eyes closed.

Paul and Silas were free! But they didn't leave. They saw that the jailer was about to hurt himself because he was worried all the prisoners escaped. So they called out, "Stop!" Let's do that. Pause.

Then Paul and Silas told the jailer and his whole family about Jesus. And he believed! Everyone in the jailer's household became part of God's family.

Ask: • **Describe how you think God looked at the jailer and his family.**

Say: **The next morning, some police came to tell the jailer he could let Paul and Silas go. But Paul still didn't leave right away. He wanted an apology for how they had been treated. After he got it, Paul and Silas walked to their friend Lydia's house. Let's make the sound of their footsteps.** Lead kids in slapping their thighs to make footsteps, while keeping their eyes closed.

Talk About It

Say: **Let's open our eyes and talk more about this.**

Ask: • **How was it different to view people from God's eyes?**

• **You shared ideas for how you could help Paul and Silas. Why do you think God didn't help them sooner?**

• **How *did* you see God watching over his family in this story?**

Say: **God is watching over his family. He's watching us when scary things happen. He's there when we're hurt. He's there when we need help! Like Paul and Silas, we can always turn to God because we know he's right here with us, no matter what is happening. In fact, let's ask for his help right now.**

Pray: **God, thank you for watching over your family. Thank you that you see us here now, and when we're scared or hurt. Help us trust you like Paul and Silas did. In Jesus' name, amen.**



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 kids to shout, "Jesus loves you!" before they run free.
- Switch up who the Tagger is every now and then. If the game is too easy for kids, have a few Taggers.

Talk About It

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

• **How did you know I was watching over you when you were in jail?**

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?**

• **Tell about something you're careful not to lose.**

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 kids make their own safety vests.

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

Classroom: Adventure

- When kids know their vests fit right, have kids remove them and decorate them using long strips of chrome-colored duct tape. (If kids need help tearing the tape, have adult and teen helpers assist them.)
- 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 kids to take their crafts home and wear them for their friends and family. Remind kids only to be pretend crossing guards *inside*, on pretend roads.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

God, Watch Over Us

[5 min]

Share Prayer Requests

Say: **God is watching over his family. And we can pray for people in God's family who need his extra care.**

- Have adult and teen helpers each gather a group of kids.
- Let kids share ways they need God to watch over them.
- Kids can pray for each other in their groups, with leaders filling in as needed.
- Pray: **God, you're watching over us now, and you've heard all our needs. We pray for your care, your love, your healing, your protection, and your provision. In Jesus' name, amen.**
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.