

# UPPER ELEMENTARY- JANUARY

## RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



**PRETEEN**  
JANUARY 2025

### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

#### GOD VIEW:

**THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RESILIENCE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY**

With every season comes new and different challenges but also the chance to experience incredible joy. Through sunshine or rain, storms, and blue skies, seasons and weather are important to growth, but not just for flowers and trees. How we respond to each season of life helps us grow in maturity and can spur us to a deeper faith in God. This is especially true when it comes to our emotions.

Just as seasons come and go, so do our emotions. And how we choose to handle those emotions can shape us and teach us a lot about how God cares for us. No matter what emotion we may be feeling or what we may face, because of Jesus, we can learn to trust that God knows how we feel. Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience, and because of it, we can trust God no matter what.

#### WEEK **ONE**

**BIBLE STORY**  
Jesus Wept  
John 11:1-45

**KEY QUESTION**  
Who can you talk to when you're sad?

#### WEEK **TWO**

**BIBLE STORY**  
Do Not Worry  
Matthew 6:25-34

**KEY QUESTION**  
What kinds of things do you worry about?

#### WEEK **THREE**

**BIBLE STORY**  
Slow to Anger  
James 1:19

**KEY QUESTION**  
What do you do when you feel angry?

#### WEEK **FOUR**

**BIBLE STORY**  
Paul and Silas  
Acts 16:16-40

**KEY QUESTION**  
What brings you joy?

#### MEMORY VERSE

**BE STRONG, ALL YOU WHO PUT YOUR HOPE IN THE LORD. NEVER GIVE UP.**  
PSALM 31:24, NIRV

#### RESILIENCE

**GETTING BACK UP WHEN SOMETHING GETS YOU DOWN**

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## Upper Elementary- Large Group

JANUARY 2025

WEEK 4

We close out the month in **Acts 16:16-40**. While Paul and Silas were preaching the message of Jesus, they were arrested and thrown into prison! All seemed hopeless, but instead of complaining and giving up, they sang songs and worshipped God.

Bottom Line: **God can help you choose joy**. Life can sometimes feel like a rollercoaster. There are ups and downs, highs and lows. But even in the midst of a difficult situation, we can have hope and trust that we are not alone. God can give us the strength we need to choose joy — even when it's hard.

### Memory Verse

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the Lord. Never give up.

Psalm 31:24 (NIRV)

### Bible Truth

Paul & Silas

Act 16:16-40

### Bottom Line

God can help you choose joy

### NOTES:

- All **yellow highlighted text** are cues for visual and audio slides.
- The text in **red** indicates stage directions.

Rise and Shine -Week 4 Teaching Outline:

*Start at 15 after (if service is expected to be about an hour)*

1. Intro: Welcome kids, get them excited.
2. Game Time: **Snow ball scoop**
3. Worship
4. Intro: Rise and Shine
5. Bible Lesson Video: **Paul & Silas**
6. Application
  - a. Weekly Bottom Line: **God can help you choose joy.**
  - b. Monthly Virtue: Resilience- **Getting back up when something gets you down**
  - c. -Memory Verse: **Be strong, all you who put your hope in the Lord. Never give up. Psalm 31:24 (NIRV)**
  - d. -Prayer
7. Small Groups: 15 minutes

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## Upper Elementary- Large Group

JANUARY 2025

WEEK 4

### OPENER 3 minutes

(Welcome kids)

Hello, my friends! You're here, I'm here, and it's a great day here at Flatirons Kids! This month we're talking about how God is with us through all the different seasons of our lives. And I don't just mean seasons like winter, spring, summer, and fall. I mean that God is with us when things are good . . . and God is with us when we face challenges too. God is there to help us when we feel sad, when we feel scared or worried, when we feel angry, AND when we feel happy! God helps us to be strong no matter what we're feeling.

### Announcements

Share campus-specific announcements -see your Kids Director for details.

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### GAME TIME

So far this month, we've done a spring game, a summer game, and a fall game. Today? It's all about the winter.

### SHOW SLIDE: "SNOWBALL SCOOP"

The name of our game today is 'Snowball Scoop'! Let's get two contestants from each side of the room. Raise your hand if you want to play!

*Pick two kids from each side to go on stage. (Be sure to pick kids from different parts of the room— not just up front.). The two large bowls should be on the floor with cotton balls spread out between them.*

Here's how 'Snowball Scoop' works. Each team has a bowl and spoon in front of them. The floor is full of weightless, fluffy (air quotes) 'snowballs.' (Hold up one of the cotton balls.) "When I say 'go,' each contestant will use a spoon to scoop as many snowballs as they can into their empty bowl—and they must do this while blindfolded!

Keep in mind, these snowballs are almost weightless, so this will be really tough for our contestants. It'll be hard to tell whether the spoon is really full or not! Whichever team gets the most snowballs in their bowl in one-minute wins!

*Give each contestant a blindfold to put on. It would be easiest if these could be sleep-mask style.) Then give each of them a large mixing spoon.*

Okay, I think we're ready! Be sure to cheer for your teammates, everyone. Ready, set, Snowball Scoop!

### **Show countdown:60-seconds**

*Encourage the audience to cheer for their teammates. When time's up, count the cotton balls and declare the winning team. Thank all contestants, collect their game supplies, and dismiss them to their seats.*

Wow—what an epic game! I'm so impressed with our contestants. They didn't give up, even when they couldn't tell whether what they were doing was working or not! Thanks kids!

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## **WORSHIP 6-7 minutes**

Let's get ready to worship God together. Worship helps us focus our hearts on God's great love for us. As we sing, we remember what really matters and how God good is to us. When we worship God, that's a way WE can choose joy. We can remember that God is good . . . God loves us . . . and God is always with us. Let's stand and get ready to sing!

*(Encourage kids to worship God through song and dance. Play worship songs).*

### **Show Worship Song: I Thank God**

### **Show Worship Song: Rain or Shine**

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## **INTRO 1 minute**

### **Show Series Graphic: Rise and Shine**

Today we get to talk about at a really fun emotion: JOY. We have a story coming up about some guys who chose joy even in a tough situation.

Today we're looking at a story from the book of Acts. *(Hold up Bible.)* This part of the Bible talks about the early days of the church . . . after Jesus died, came back to life, and then

went back to heaven. In the book of Acts, we can read about people like Paul, who shared the good news about Jesus in all kinds of different places. Paul and his friends traveled around, starting churches and teaching people about the amazing things Jesus had done. Let's check out our story!

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### BIBLE TRUTH 10 minutes

**Show Video: Video\_WK4\_So&So\_Show**

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### APPLICATION 3 minutes

**Show Series Graphic: Rise and Shine**

Even though Paul and Silas had been treated unfairly—lied about, hurt, and thrown in prison—they chose to look to God and trust God to give them joy. In the middle of their darkest and scariest moments, they chose to worship God with joyful hearts. Here's what we need to remember today:

**Show Graphic: WK4\_Bottom Line**

**[Bottom line] God can help you choose joy.** Say that with me. **God can help you choose joy.**

I can't imagine what the other prisoners were thinking when they saw all the joy Paul and Silas had . . . even when they were chained up and in jail! It's pretty amazing to think about. But the truth is, God can give us joy—even in hard times. We can trust God in every season. We can trust God, rain or shine. And that's how we can find resilience.

**Show Graphic: Virtue**

Resilience means **getting back up when something gets you down.**

There's a big difference between happiness and joy. It's easy to feel happy when everything goes right in your life. Joy is something deeper and more real. We can find joy when we look to and trust God no matter what. We can find joy even if our troubles don't go away right now . . . because we know that God has promised to make everything right in the end for those who follow Jesus.

**Memory Verse:**

Let's remember this by practicing our Memory Verse for this month. It is Psalm 31:24 (NirV). Let's say it together:

**Show Verse: Psalm 31:24 (NirV)**

**“Be strong, all you who put your hope in the Lord. Never give up. Psalm 31:24 (NirV)**

So, because we trust God, we can choose joy! We can remember that God loves us, God is with us, and God is there to help us.

**Show Slide: WK 4 KEY QUESTION**

As you go to your groups today, think about this: **“What brings you joy?”** Think about the difference between happiness and joy. Maybe chat with your group about how you can choose joy even when things aren't going the way you might want. Before you go, let's pray and ask God to help us have the strength to get back up and choose joy when we're down. Let's go ahead and talk to God about that right now.

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**PRAYER**

Dear God, thank You for the joy You give us each day. Thank You for giving us a reason to always have joy because we have You in our lives. When we go through things that are challenging or confusing, help us to remember Your love for us. Give us the strength and resilience to be able to trust You—even when life is hard. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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**SMALL GROUPS**

**Show Graphic: Small Group**

(Dismiss kids to their small groups).