

Philippians 1:12-30

Godly Guts for the Gospel

Scripture: Philippians 1:12-30

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Lesson Focus: As we look at how Paul shows "godly guts for the gospel" and challenges the believers in Philippi to follow his example, we hope that all of us (kids and leaders) will likewise be challenged to do "gutsy" things for the Lord!

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd - 5th.

Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Cross Door Hanger

Starter Activity: Things That Take "Guts"

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room for a quick video which will introduce our lesson. We will ask the kids what it means to "have guts". * To have "guts" or courage means you do what is right even if it is scary or seems too hard! *

Then we will show a quick clip from the movie *Home Alone* where little Kevin shows he had "guts" in defending his home from the bad guys.

Q: What are some ways that Kevin showed "guts" in this video?

While I expect none of us will ever have to defend our home like that, all of us are often put into situations where we must make a choice that might cost us. Will we have the "guts" to do what is right or will we be too afraid or proud that we choose what is just easy or even wrong? Here's an example: *

A new kid shows up at school * and no one is friendly toward him or her. Some kids might even laugh at the kid because he/she looks different:

Q: What would be the easy thing to do? A: Go with the crowd and laugh at him/her.

Q: What would be the "gutsy" thing to do? A: Try and make friends with the kid.

Last week we started a new book of the Bible, Philippians. This book is a letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the believers at Philippi, a church that he planted.

However, Paul is now in prison in Rome. Though he has been unjustly persecuted and imprisoned we are going to see that Paul is still doing some "gutsy" things. We'll see that he has more than just "guts" though, he's got "godly guts". Let's take a look!

Bible Study:

Philippians 1:12-13: The believers in Philippi have heard about Paul getting imprisoned and I could imagine they were worried about him. Yet, Paul assures them that even though he is in prison, God is still at work! The gospel is still spreading!

Q: Why was Paul imprisoned? Did he do anything wrong? A: NO! By imprisoning Paul, the bad guys thought this would stop the gospel from spreading, but it did the opposite! * For even the "higher-ups" in Rome warmed up to Paul and the gospel! *

The Roman custom was for a prisoner to be chained to a Roman soldier/guard several hours a day. (**Teachers:** We will leave you with some handcuffs. * Consider having a volunteer come up and "chain" them to you. Ask the kid what they would talk about if they had to be chained to you like this for several hours and mention how Paul certainly talked about Jesus with every soldier!)

Philippians 1:14: And not only has this brought about the spreading of the gospel among unbelievers, but his example has touched the other believers in Rome.

Q: How has Paul's "godly guts" affected these other believers? A: They are becoming more confident to talk about Jesus and the gospel. In other words, Paul's "godly guts" has inspired them to do more "gutsy" things for the Lord!

Philippians 1:15-17: Sadly, it appears there are divisions in Rome among the believers. Some are sharing the gospel for selfish reasons that harm Paul, while others are sharing it with a true heart. While we don't know the details, it is the same gospel we share today and let's make sure we know what this is. *

Q: What is the gospel? A: It is the "good news" of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. By God's grace, Jesus came to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. When we turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus in faith, we are freely forgiven and become children of God! That's the gospel message that Paul and others have been sharing and defending with "godly guts"! *

Philippians 1:18: Remember that Paul is in prison!

Q: Yet, what does he choose to do? A: Rejoice! * Not because he is free or comfortable, but because the gospel is being spread and lives are being changed! It takes "godly guts" to choose joy in such circumstances! *

Philippians 1:19-20: Paul's courage (godly guts) is not something that he just musters up in his own strength, but he relies heavily on the prayers of other believers and the Holy Spirit. So much so that he is confident that God will deliver him no matter what happens! **Read Romans 8:28.** A few years earlier Paul wrote this marvelous truth in a letter to the believers in Rome and now here he is faithfully living this truth out in Rome with "godly guts"!

Philippians 1:21: Wow! This is our memory verse and a famous battle cry of Paul that really shows us what it means to live and walk with "godly guts". We've been talking about "godly guts" throughout this lesson, but let's go a little deeper.

Q: What is the difference between just having "guts" vs. having "godly guts"?

A: To have "godly guts" means that your courage is directed towards doing what God wants and what brings Him glory! People may do "gutsy" things for all sorts of silly or selfish reasons (to show off, because they were dared to, etc.). But "godly guts" entails doing things that bless others and bring glory to God! * This is quite a challenge and let's look back at how we lived this week and test ourselves.

Teachers: Write "To Live Is _____" on the whiteboard and ask kids how they would fill in the blank based on what they were focused on last week. Some answers that you might suggest are sports, dance, YouTube, friends, toys, gadgets, Minecraft. Point out how none of these things are bad in and of themselves, but they should NOT be what we are living for! *

Philippians 1:22-23: Paul knows that if the Lord keeps him alive, it will mean continuing to share the gospel and build believers up in their faith. But notice what he said about dying or "departing" to be with Christ: it is FAR BETTER!

Q: Why is this far better? A: Because there is NOTHING better than to be with Jesus! * That's why Paul said to die in faith is "gain". *

Philippians 1:24-26: While Paul knows going to Jesus is best for him, continuing in this life is best for the believers. Therefore, it appears Paul is confident he will be released from prison so that he can continue to inspire them to have "godly guts"!

Philippians 1:27: This sounds like the same challenge we read a few weeks ago in Ephesians (see **Eph. 4:1-3**). Believers are to be united and to walk worthy of the gospel that has rescued them from the punishment they deserve for their sins. *

Philippians 1:28-30: And notice Paul is also challenging them to have "godly guts". They are not to be afraid of the bad guys nor of the suffering that will come from faithfully following Jesus. This reminds me also of our last lesson of Ephesians about the "armor of God". Remember that all believers are "[Knights in Training](#)"! *

Key Point: This is a challenging text! Can we honestly say that "to live is Christ" is our life slogan? That we have "godly guts"? Probably not as much as we'd like, but let's grow in that direction! Just like Paul, we need to rely upon the Holy Spirit and the prayers of others (v. 19) (**Teachers:** Consider telling your kids you will commit to pray for them in this way this week and follow-up with them next time!)

Believer: * Where can you show "godly guts" this week? Is there someone you can invite to church? Someone you can share Jesus with? Someone you can show kindness to that might cause others to laugh at you? Do it for Jesus!

Bring It Home

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

To the saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus:

*Greetings! Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

First

Read Philippians 1:12-14. How is Paul showing "godly guts" in the midst of his imprisonment?

Second

Read Philippians 1:21. How would you explain this verse in your own words?

Parent Challenge

What would you say is the difference between having "guts" vs. having "godly guts"?

By His Grace,

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