



Equip Christian congregations to minister with adults with intellectual disabilities

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I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8

2026 Leader's Guide Discussion Booklet



HELPFUL HINTS

Leading a Discussion Group

THE LESSON AND DISCUSSION TIME

- **PREPARE** by reviewing each lesson before your group begins. Make sure you are familiar with the story, discussion questions, and key points. **Note:** The words in *italics* are from scripture.
- **INVOLVE** everyone in the group. Encourage participation from everyone including friends, families, staff, and volunteers. Some friends may not use words but they can hear, listen, and learn from the discussion. The pictures can be a good tool for discussion also.
- **READING ALOUD** can be a helpful tool. Invite friends who you know are comfortable reading aloud to read the Bible verse, small portions of the story, or discussion questions. **You will not have enough time to read the entire lesson.** The Booklet should only be used as a guide to discuss the lesson.
- **PATIENTLY** wait for a response when asking questions. Questions should be short and simple. “Yes” or “no” questions can be helpful. Those with disabilities may need extra time to process their response. It is OK to whisper the answer in their ear. If you are unable to understand, ask them to repeat it, or ask another volunteer/friend to help. Take your time; we don’t want feeling rushed.

- **CONNECT** the Bible lesson to real life situations. Give examples of how it applies to your own life.
- **ANSWERS** are provided with the discussion questions. Give opportunity for friends to answer first. Use the questions as discussion starters.

PRAYER TIME

- **PRAYER** is an important time for our friends to open up about what they are thankful for, their concerns, or help from God. We want to include family, volunteers, and staff in prayer time. This can be a way to build Christian community within your group.
- **PLEASE and THANK YOU** prayer cards are a great way to help our friends pray. They will be in the table tubs. Leaders may need to help friends read it, think of what they are thankful for, and what they need prayer for. After they (or you) have prayed pass the P/T card to the next person. **Friends may need help praying by repeating a simple prayer after you.**

CRAFT TIME

- **CRAFTS** should be done after discussion and prayer time.
- **DIRECTIONS & SUPPLIES** for Day 1 and 2 crafts will be in the table tubs.
- **HELP** friends who need assistance with the craft, and ask friends who are able to help others. This is a great way to build friendships, give them purpose, and **HAVE FUN!**

Day 1 - UNSHAKABLE
Faith in the Fire
(Daniel 3:1-30)

Day 1
BIBLE VERSE

*“Faith is being sure of what we hope for.
It is being sure of what we do not see.”*
Hebrews 11:1

Our story is from the book of Daniel about 600 years before Jesus Christ was born. We know that Jesus is the King of Kings. But Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, thought he was the greatest king.

He captured many young men from Judah including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They had to learn a new language, and a whole new way of living.



After years of training, the three young men began to serve the king. God blessed them and made them important officials in Babylon.

REFERENCES

Images



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Bible References

New-International-Readers-Version-NIRV-Bible/

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

Day 1

- God is the only One worthy of our worship.
- Faith is trusting God completely, even when we can't see the outcome.
- God may not prevent trials, but He promises to be with us through them.
- Our trials can bring praise and glory to God.

Day 2

- Praise changes our focus when going through tough times.
- People notice how we face difficult times.
- God is good, and He is always with us.
- Everyone needs Jesus, even those who mistreat us.

Day 3

- God's Word is our unshakable foundation.
- It is not enough to simply hear God's words – we must put them into practice.
- Living out Jesus' teachings, we can stand firm through any storm.



King Nebuchadnezzar was a very proud man; He built a massive gold statue or idol—90 feet tall! Just imagine three school buses stacked on top of each other!

He commanded people to come from every nation to see his gold statue. When the music played, they were to bow down and worship his golden idol. Anyone who refused would be thrown into a blazing furnace.

When the music started, everyone bowed and worshipped the idol—except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They knew God is the only One who is worthy of worship. They didn't want anything to be more important than God.

Idol—Anything that takes God’s place in our life—anything we love more than God.

“The King was angry that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendego refused to bow down to his idol. He said to them, “Is what I heard about you true? Don’t you worship the gold statue?”

You will hear the music again and when you do, fall down and worship the statue I made. But if you won’t, you will be thrown at once into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to save you from my power?”



4. Where did the wise builder build his house? **A) On the solid foundation of a Rock.**

5. Where did the foolish builder build his house? **A) on the unstable foundation of sand. Or no foundation.**

6. What happened to both houses when the wind and rain came? **A) The house on the Rock stood firm. The house on sand fell with a great crash.**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Are you more like the wise man or the foolish man in Jesus’ story? **(Friends can just think about their answer if they wish not to share).**

2. What can you do to be more like the wise builder? **A) We can put Jesus’ word into practice, not just hearing but obeying.**

3. How can you put into practice Jesus’ teaching? **A) Showing love to others by helping or giving a hug. Being kind to our enemies. Praying for others. Reading to the Bible. Listening to worship music. Going to church and Friendship group.**

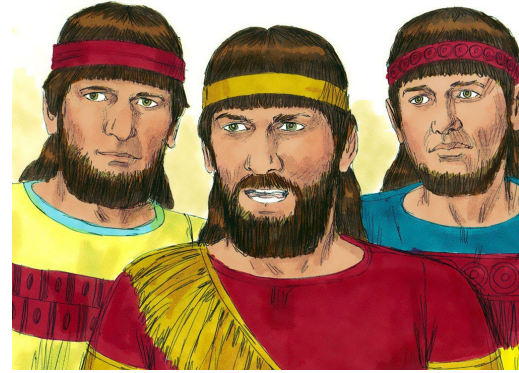
KEY POINTS

- God's Word is our unshakable foundation.
- It is not enough to simply hear God's words – we must put them into practice.
- Living out Jesus' teachings, our lives stand firm through any storm.

If your Gathering does not have Day 3 Discussion Group time, encourage the friends to work on these questions at home.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were some of the things Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount? **A) How we are to love others, even our enemies. How to pray and shine our lights for Jesus. We can seek God instead of worrying.**
2. What is a parable? **A) A short, everyday story with an important message we can learn to live by.**
3. Why is a foundation important in our story? **A) When we build our lives on the solid foundation of God's Word we will be wise. When hard times come we will be unshakable.**



The three men didn't have to think twice, they answered the King, *"The God we serve is able to save us from the fire. But even if He doesn't, we will never worship your gods or bow to your statue."*

"This made Nebuchadnezzar even more angry. He quickly ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. He commanded his strongest soldiers to throw them into the blazing furnace." Then something incredible happened! The King saw four men walking



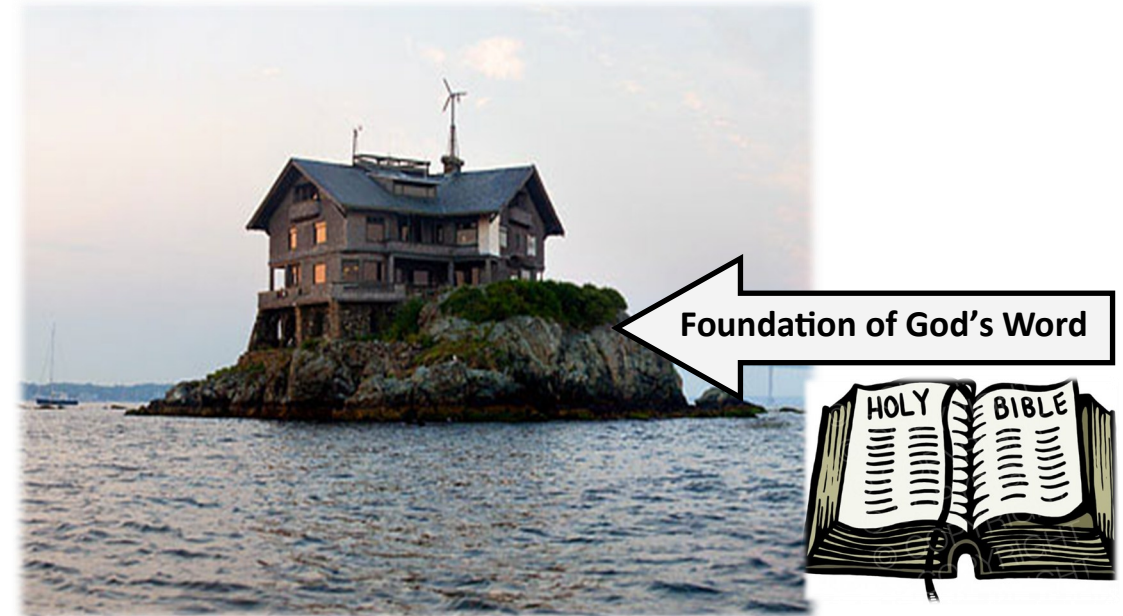
around in the fire, unharmed. The fourth looked like “a son of the gods.” When the men came out of the furnace the King was happy and said, *“Praise be to God who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in Him and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.”*



KEY POINTS

- God is the only One worthy of our worship.
- Faith is trusting God completely, even when we can't see the outcome.
- God may not prevent trials, but He promises to be with us through them.
- Our trials can bring praise and glory to God.

The most important part of our foundation is to build our lives on Jesus Christ, trusting Him to be our Lord and Savior. When we do, He will send His Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit helps guide us, comfort us and encourages us through the storms that come our way.



Just like the wise builder in Jesus' parable, we have a choice every day about where we build our lives, on rock or sand. When our foundation is on the solid rock of God's Word, we will stand firm.



foundation on the rock.

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds

blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Jesus is teaching an important spiritual truth about how to live. If we build our lives on the solid rock of God’s Word, we will be wise. When storms come into our lives, our foundation will stay strong and unshakable.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the three men have to go through training in Babylon?
A) So they could serve the King.
2. What did the King build? What is an idol?
A) A 90ft. Gold statue. Something that is worshiped or more important than God.
3. What did the King tell the people to do when the music was played?
A) They were to bow down and worship the idol.
4. What would happen if they did not obey?
A) They would be thrown into the fiery furnace.
5. Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendego obey? Why not?
A) No. They know that God was the only One who was worthy of their worship.
6. What did the King see in the furnace with the three men?
A) Someone who looked like a “son of the gods.”
7. What did the King say when the men came out of the fire unharmed?
A) He was happy and praised God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Let the friends answer the reflection questions as it applies to their life. Answers will vary. Sample answers are given to prompt discussion.

1. What does it mean to “shake in your boots”? What makes you afraid or shake in your boots?
A) To be really afraid, worried, frightened. (Friends can give their own answers).
2. Who can we run to when we are afraid?
A) We can always run to God.
3. How do you go to God when you are afraid?
A) We can pray and ask God to help us, call a friend, listen to or read our Bible.
4. Who is with us when we are afraid or when we are going through a hard time?
A) Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit.
5. How can trials we go through bring glory to God?
A) It can show others our faith in God. It can show God’s love and power.

Jesus ended His teaching with a parable.

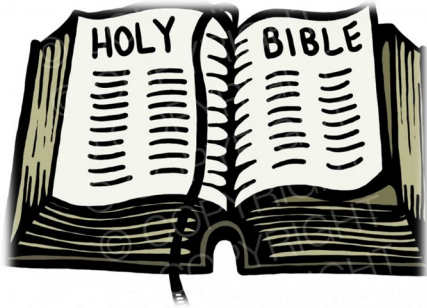
Parable: A short, everyday story with an important message.

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its



This teaching is known as “The Sermon on the Mount.”
Jesus taught us:

Seek God instead of worry.



Love others
by helping
and serving.



Pray.



Shine the
light of
Jesus.



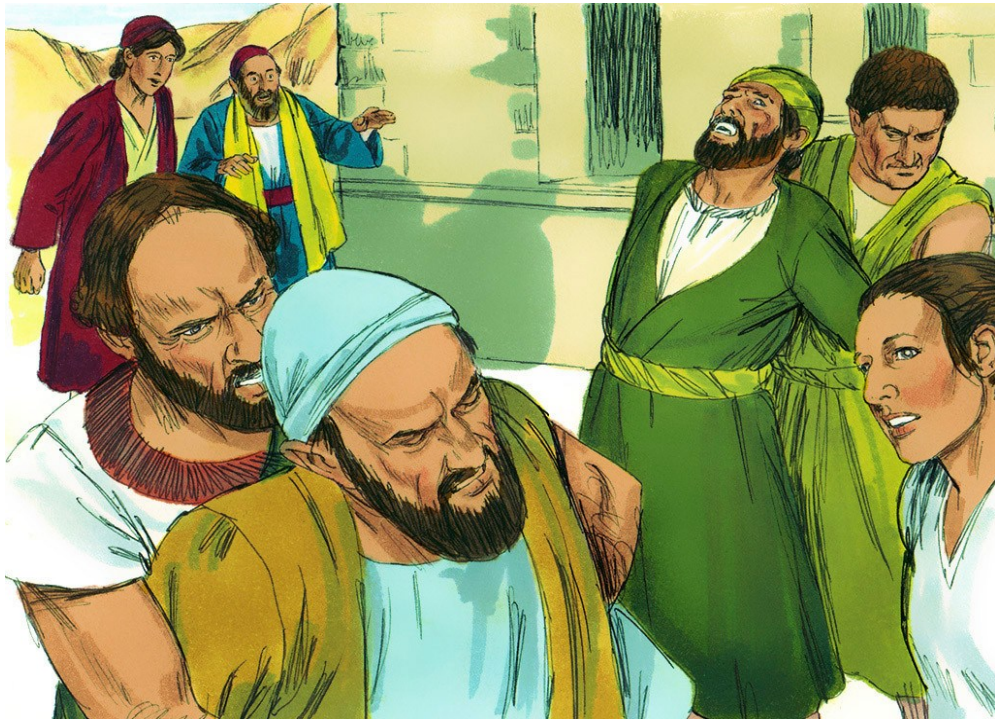
Day 2 - UNSHAKABLE
Focus of Praise
(Acts 16:16-34)

Day 2
BIBLE VERSE

*“So my heart will sing your praises.
I can’t keep silent.” Psalm 30:12*

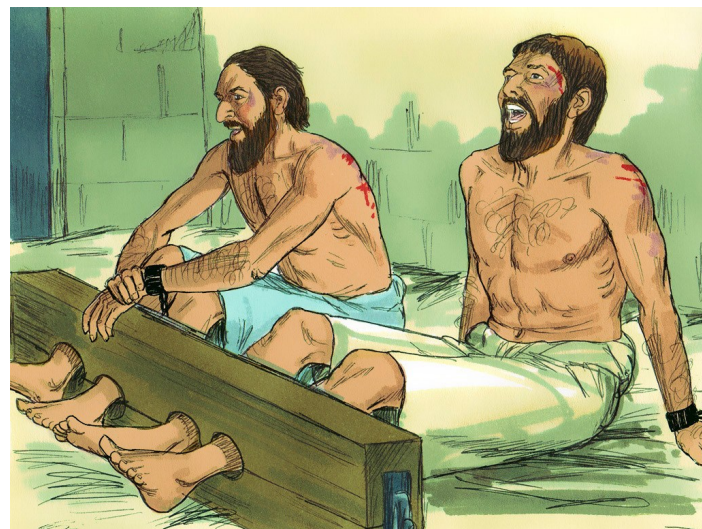
Paul and Silas were missionaries, spreading the good news of Jesus in the city of Philippi. There were not many Christians there and they worship many false gods. Paul and Silas were focused on telling others how they can know God through Jesus Christ. One day, Paul and Silas





were on their way to pray. An angry crowd grabbed them. They didn't like that Paul healed a girl with an evil spirit in the name of Jesus. And they didn't like them preaching against their false gods.

Paul and Silas were arrested and hurt very badly. Paul and Silas were thrown into the deepest part of the prison. Their feet were fastened so they couldn't get away.



Day 3 - UNSHAKABLE Foundation of God's Word (Matthew 5:1-2, 7:24-27)

Day 3 BIBLE VERSE

"So then, everyone who hears My words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock."

Matthew 7:24

After Jesus called His disciples, He began to teach and heal people all over Galilee. Large crowds of people followed Him.

When Jesus saw the large crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.



4. How did the chains fall off of Paul Silas and all the other prisoners?
A) God did it with an earthquake!
5. What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas after he learned they didn't escape?
A) "Sirs, what can I do to be saved?"
6. How did they answer the jailer?
A) Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you and your whole family will be saved."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. When and where do you praise the Lord? **(Friends can give their own answers.)**
2. Is it harder to praise God when you're going through a hard time or being mistreated? **(It can be harder but we can choose to pray and sing praises to God for loving and saving us.)**
3. How can we be missionaries like Paul and Silas? **(We can share the good news, sing and pray in hard circumstances.)**

If your Gathering is not having a discussion group on Day 3, you can take this booklet home today.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying. They were also singing to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a powerful earthquake. It shook the prison from top to bottom. All at once the prison doors flew open. Everyone's chains came loose.

The jailer woke up. He saw that the prison doors were open. He pulled out his sword and was going to kill himself. He thought the prisoners had escaped. "Don't harm yourself!" Paul shouted. "We are all here!"



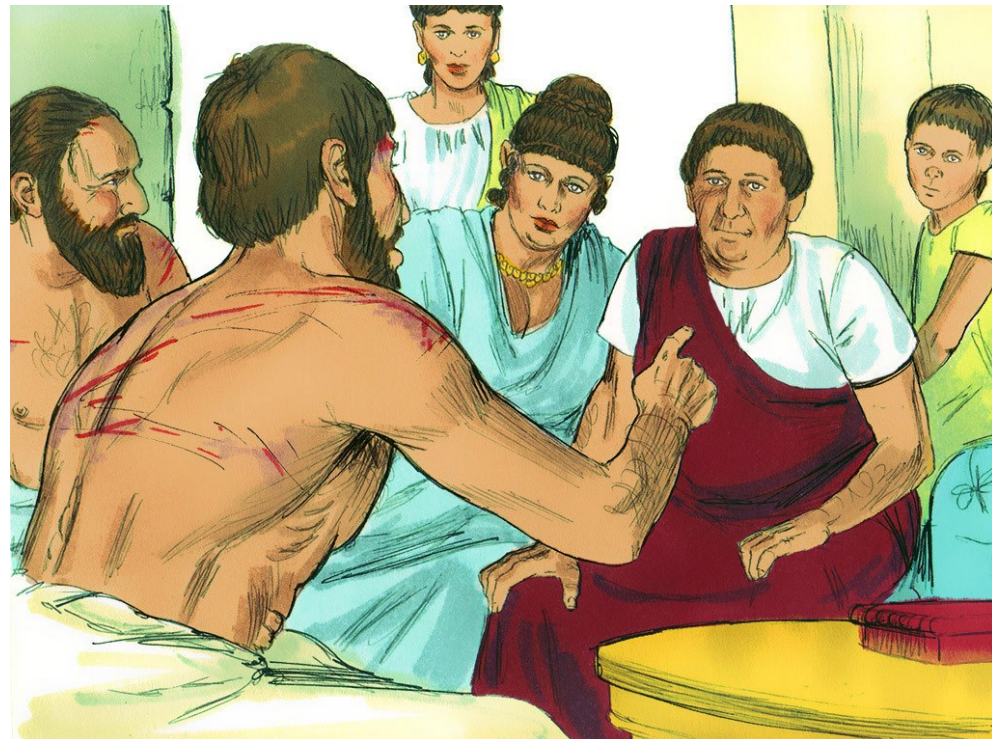
Shaking with fear, the jailer fell down in front of Paul and Silas.

“Sirs, what can I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus.

Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved.”

They spoke the word of the Lord to him. That night, the jailer took them into his home and washed their wounds.”



He and his family were baptized. They shared a meal and rejoiced—they had become believers in Jesus Christ!



KEY POINTS

- Praise changes our focus when going through tough times.
- People notice how we face difficult times.
- God is good, and He is always with us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why were Paul and Silas thrown in prison?
A) They healed a girl in the name of Jesus. They were telling everyone the good news about Jesus.
2. How could Paul and Silas pray and sing when they so mistreated?
A) They remembered Jesus was mistreated and died for them.
3. Who heard Paul and Silas singing to God?
A) The other prisoners and probably the jailer.