

# Paul and Silas Sang to God

## LIFE POINT

People can tell about Jesus at all times.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 16:16-34

## UNIT VERSE:

Preschool- Go and tell the good news about Jesus. Mark 16:15

Elementary- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NIV)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Where did our Bible story today take place? (Philippi in Macedonia)

Why were Paul and Silas put in jail? (Telling others about Jesus, causing an uproar in the city) What were Paul and Silas doing in the jail at midnight? (singing and praying to God)

What happened after the earthquake? (Chains were broken and the doors of the jail were opened, but they did not escape)

Why was the jailer worried? (He thought all the prisoners had escaped)

Why did Paul and Silas go to the jailer’s home? (To preach the Good News of Jesus, celebrate because his whole household had just accepted Jesus and were baptized)

What is God teaching us in this lesson? Answers may vary.

How can we learn to praise God no matter what our situation is?

## NOTE FOR PARENTS

In contrast to a cheerful preschool room, a dark, damp, ancient jail does not seem like an ideal place to learn a lesson, other than crime doesn’t pay. But when Paul and Silas ended up spending the night behind bars, it was not just the inmates who experienced a teachable moment.

Paul and Silas had made a habit of praying, preaching, and teaching. While they were on their way to pray, they encountered a slave girl who served as a fortune-teller for her owners. She began to hang around the two men, shouting that the men were proclaiming the way of salvation and were the servants of the Most High God. This went on for days until Paul, annoyed, cast a spirit out of her. Good for her but bad for what had been a lucrative business. The owners incited a riot that resulted in Paul and Silas being beaten and thrown in jail. The jailer had strict instructions to guard them carefully, so he chained them in the center of the jail.

At midnight, as the two missionaries were praying and singing hymns to God, an earthquake shook the jail doors open, and the chains fell off. Fearing the prisoners had fled, the jailer was worried for his own life, but Paul called out that all prisoners were accounted for. Seeing this, the jailer fell down before them, escorted them out of the prison, and asked how he could be saved. The answer was simple: “Believe in the Lord Jesus.” That night the jailer and his household were saved. They baptized the jailer and his family. Then he fed the missionaries. For a Jew to eat with a Gentile in his home was an abomination in Jewish culture, but for Paul, Silas, and these Gentile converts it was a true celebration of Christian fellowship.

When have you been most aware of God using you to share with someone about His plan of salvation? Ask God to empower you to tell about Jesus at all times.

Help your child understand that when we are sad, God is always with us. Even in hard times we can sing to God, talk to Him, and tell others about Jesus.

## **Paul and Silas Sang to God**

—Based on Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas loved Jesus. Everywhere they went they told people about Jesus. Some people did not want Paul and Silas to talk about Jesus. They put Paul and Silas in jail. The jailer locked their feet in chains. Paul and Silas still told others about Jesus, even in jail. They began to pray and sing songs to God. The other prisoners listened to them pray and sing.

Suddenly, at midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing, there was an earthquake. The ground shook so hard that the prison doors opened and the prisoners' chains came loose.

The earthquake woke the man who worked in the jail. When he saw the jail doors wide open, the jailer was afraid he would be in trouble if the prisoners were gone. Then the jailer heard Paul call out, "We are all still here! Do not be afraid!"

The jailer ran to where Paul and Silas were. He took them back to his house. Paul and Silas told the jailer and his family the good news about Jesus and how much Jesus loved them. The jailer and his family believed what they heard about Jesus.

## **BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

### **\*COLOR SHEET**

*Things you need: Print color sheet and crayons*

As your child colors, review today's Bible story with them.

### **\*BUILD AND KNOCK DOWN A CITY**

*Things you need: Blocks, toy vehicles, flat cardboard pieces*

Invite your child to build a city with blocks on top of the cardboard pieces. Construct buildings and add vehicles. Wiggle the cardboard beneath the block structures and watch the buildings shake and fall. Mention that while Paul and Silas were in jail, God sent an earthquake that shook so hard their chains came loose and the jail doors opened. Remark that no matter what happened to them, Paul and Silas kept telling about Jesus.

### **\*MAKE AND PLAY SHAKERS**

*Things you need: Bible, disposable plastic cups (2 per child), heavy-duty tape, rice (or dried beans or aquarium gravel), spoon, colored shape stickers, decorative tape, permanent marker*

Help your child spoon a couple of spoonfuls of rice into a cup. Invert a second cup and place it on top of the first, edge to edge. Secure the cups together with tape.

Let your child add stickers and tape strips to the sides of their shakers. Play some favorite music and move the shaker to the music.

Remark that Paul and Silas worshiped God even in jail. Recall that, after the earthquake, the jailer was afraid they would escape. Instead Paul and Silas told the jailer about Jesus.

### **\*PAPER CHAIN REVIEW**

*Things you need: "Paper Chains" Printable or you can write out the phrases from the printable on paper, scissors, tape or stapler, markers*

Print the "Paper Chains" Printable and cut out each phrase or write the phrases from the "Paper Chains" printable on slips of paper. Mix them up for your child. Have your child assemble the paper chain slips in order of the events from our bible story today. Interlock one slip into the other using tape or a stapler to connect the chains. In our story today, Paul and Silas were thrown in prison and locked up in chains. Paul and Silas did not let this stop them from singing and praying to God.

## **\*HARD TIMES OBSTACLE COURSE**

*Things you need: Household items, bandanna/scarf/blindfold (or eyes closed)*

What you do: Create a simple obstacle course in your house or outside.

Show the kids the obstacle course. Demonstrate how to go over and under the obstacles.

Let your child try to do the obstacle course once without the blindfold.

Place a blindfold on your child (or just have them close their eyes). Help your child by giving instructions to help them know when to move right, left, up, or down. Give each child an opportunity to do the obstacle course blindfolded. Ask your child if the obstacle course was easy or hard.

Ask: “Why was the first trip through the obstacle course easier than the second time?”

Explain to your child that telling others about Jesus is sometimes easy and sometimes hard. Think about the tough things that Paul and Silas experienced in our story today.

Tell them that some may not want to hear what they have to say, but we have the responsibility to tell others about Jesus no matter what! Remind the kids that people can tell about Jesus even in difficult times. Ask: How can kids tell about Jesus when they experience hard things?”

## **\*PRAY**

*Things you need: nothing*

Encourage kids to pray daily for Christians around the world who are hurt or punished because of their faith.





Paul and Silas went to Philippi to teach the others about Jesus.

Paul and Silas were accused of causing trouble in the city.

Paul and Silas were thrown into jail.

The jailer put them in an inner prison and put chains on them.

At midnight, Paul and Silas were singing and praying to God.

Suddenly, there was a great earthquake!

The foundation of the prison shook, the doors were opened and the chains were free from everyone.

The guard asked Paul and Silas "What must I do to be saved?"

Paul told the guard, "First you must believe in Jesus."

Paul told the guard and his household about Jesus.

The guard and his household were all baptized.

The guard rejoiced because his whole family believed in God.

# Paul and Silas in Prison: Coded Words

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

## Code key

A 1	H 8	O 15	V 22
B 2	I 9	P 16	W 23
C 3	J 10	Q 17	X 24
D 4	K 11	R 18	Y 25
E 5	L 12	S 19	Z 26
F 6	M 13	T 20	
G 7	N 14	U 21	

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16 1 21 12

\_\_\_\_\_  
19 9 12 1 19

\_\_\_\_\_  
16 18 9 19 15 14

\_\_\_\_\_  
5 1 18 20 8 17 21 1 11 5

\_\_\_\_\_  
3 8 1 9 14 19

\_\_\_\_\_  
16 18 1 9 19 5

**What Paul and Silas told the guard:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
23 5      1 18 5      8 5 18 5



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**P A U L**  
16 1 21 12

**S I L A S**  
19 9 12 1 19

**P R I S O N**  
16 18 9 19 15 14

**E A R T H Q U A K E**  
5 1 18 20 8 17 21 1 11 5

**C H A I N S**  
3 8 1 9 14 19

**P R A I S E**  
16 18 1 9 19 5

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What Paul and Silas told the guard:

**W E**  
23 5

**A R E**  
1 18 5

**H E R E**  
8 5 18 5