

PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON

Acts 16:16-34

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Key Verse:

They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Acts 16:31

The Point:

God can even use the imprisonment of the faithful to bring about change in people.

Making Connections:

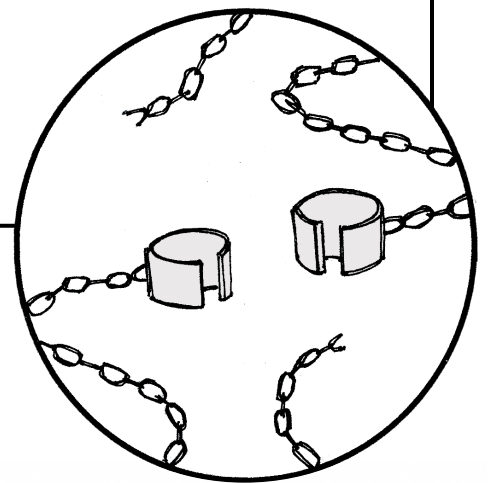
Good News Spreads

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Translation

Spiritual Practice:

Service



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

The good news spreads, even in the midst of the persecution of the believers. Today your class will learn the story of Paul and Silas in prison.

Story Summary:

Paul and Silas in Prison

As Paul and Silas travel around Philippi spreading the word about Jesus, they are followed by an enslaved girl who shouts and cries out, disrupting their message. The girl is possessed by a “spirit of divination,” and her masters are using this to make money by having her foretell the future. Paul commands the spirit to leave the girl in the name of Jesus Christ. Once the girl is freed, her masters are angry because they cannot make money from her anymore as a fortuneteller. They bring Paul and Silas before the magistrates and demand that they be beaten and imprisoned for being troublemakers who have broken Roman law.

The magistrates have Paul and Silas beaten and chained inside a cell within the inner most part of the prison. Paul and Silas do not lose heart. Instead they sing praises to God and pray throughout the night. An earthquake rocks the prison and causes Paul and Silas’s chains to fall away and their prison doors to burst open.

When the jailer sees that the prison doors are open he decides to kill himself instead of facing the consequences that would be given him. But the two apostles have remained inside their cells and cry out for the jailer not to hurt himself. The jailer asks Paul and Silas for help. After the two apostles tell the jailer about Jesus, his entire household is baptized.

The Point

God can even use the imprisonment of the faithful to bring about change in people. As early apostles spreading the word about Jesus, they encountered many dangers and people who wanted to persecute them. Because Paul freed an enslaved girl from spirit-possession, he and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison. But they did not let this setback break them. In fact, they continued to sing praises to God.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Translation

When the Bible was first written down, the stories of the Old Testament were originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic, while the New Testament was originally written in Greek. To reach people all over the world, the full Bible has been translated into hundreds of languages, and the New Testament itself translated into over a thousand languages. However, translation always involves interpretation as well, as translators must often choose which modern words and phrases best communicate the intention of the original writings. It can be helpful when studying Scripture to read several translations and study the different meanings of important words and phrases.

Spiritual Practice: Service

Sometimes simple actions mean the most. Remembering people who are going through difficult times can be a meaningful expression of service in the midst of dark times.



Hidden Pictures: God Took Care of Paul and Silas

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: book, bread, glass of water, football, horseshoe, leaf, moon, orange slice, pencil, and sock.



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	

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

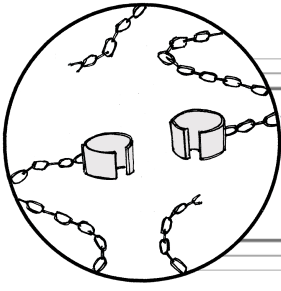
3 8 1 9 14 19

16 18 1 9 19 5

What Paul and Silas told the guard:

23 5 1 18 5 8 5 18 5





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lesson #4-32
Acts 16:16-34

LAST WEEK

Saul, a persecutor of Christians, had a vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus that changed his life dramatically (Acts 9:1-19a).

THIS WEEK

When Paul and Silas are imprisoned for sharing the gospel, an earthquake opens their cell door and a prison guard comes to believe (Acts 16:16-34).

STORY SUMMARY

Paul and Silas in Prison

Paul commands a spirit to leave an enslaved girl, angering her masters. They have Paul and Silas imprisoned, but Paul and Silas do not lose heart. They sing praises to God and pray throughout the night. An earthquake rocks the prison and causes Paul and Silas's chains to fall away and their prison doors to burst open. The jailer panics when the prison doors are opened, but Paul and Silas cry out for the jailer not to hurt himself. The two apostles are able to tell the jailer and his family about Jesus.

PRACTICE SERVICE

Remembering people who are going through difficult times can be a meaningful expression of service. Who do you know that is going through a difficult time? What can you do as a family to help them? Come up with a plan and carry it out.

NEXT WEEK

Paul continues his missionary journey around the Mediterranean in Athens, where he challenges the cultural practices of the time (Acts 17:16-31).

THE POINT

God can even use the imprisonment of the faithful to bring about change in people.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Translation

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Family Discussions

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas were imprisoned but continued to worship and share anyway. Using cushions and pillows, build a jail and then break out when God sends an earthquake.

Monday—Read Acts 16:35-40

Paul and Silas are released from jail. Have you ever falsely accused someone or been falsely accused? How did you handle it?

Tuesday—Read Acts 10:1-23

After a vision, a Roman named Cornelius sent his servants to bring the apostle Peter to him. Gather stuffed animals. Use a towel or blanket to reenact Peter’s vision.

Wednesday—Read Acts 10:24-33

Cornelius met Peter and told him of his vision. Sometimes it is hard for us to believe that God loves and forgives all people. Pray for the people that it is difficult for you to love.

Thursday—Read Acts 10:34-48

Peter shared the good news as the Holy Spirit descends and moves all gathered to be baptized. Blow on each other and remind one another that you have received the Holy Spirit.

Friday—Read Acts 17:1-9

Paul goes to Thessalonica. Paul and Silas continue to travel and tell others about Jesus. Walk outside or around your home, and talk about Jesus with each other.

Saturday—Read Acts 17:10-15

Paul goes to Beroea. Paul and Silas are stirring up trouble by talking about Jesus. They probably moved quickly from town to town. Move quickly from room to room in your home.