

LIFE POINT
People can tell
about Jesus at
all times.

PAUL AND SILAS SANG TO GOD



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Acts 16:16-34

WEEKLY VERSE

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

UNIT VERSE

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

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

May 24



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Put preschoolers in a group and most, if not all, will sing if you give them a chance. Add some motions, and you have a captive audience—at least for a few minutes. Singing and praying are fairly easy things to teach young children. Most are capable of following directions and catch on quickly. Repetition is a wonderful methodology for learning and remembering things, and sometimes it is not always at the adult's initiation. When children call out, "Again, again. Let's do it again!" you have a teachable moment.

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 prepared to take his own life because his life would have been at stake anyway, 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. The jailer washed their wounds from the beating, and 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? Have you ever shared the gospel in an unusual setting? Ask God to empower you to tell about Jesus at all times.

How can you help the preschoolers in your group to 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.



GROUP TIME

- » **Wave and sing.** Give each child a streamer. Play “I Know.” Lead children to wave streamers and move their bodies to the music. Call attention to some of the lyrics and tell the preschoolers they can tell about Jesus.
- » **Introduce the Bible story.** Review the unit’s Life Points on the map. Show the Teaching Pictures and briefly recall each Bible story. Reveal today’s Life Point. Comment that in today’s story, Paul and Silas were in a place that could have been frightening, but they knew that God wanted them to keep on telling about Jesus at all times.
- » **Tell the Bible story.** Open the Bible to Acts 16 and tell this story with excitement in your voice.

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.

- » **Review the Bible story.** Show the covered Teaching Picture. Choose a child to remove a sticky note, and invite preschoolers to tell about what is happening in the picture. Continue removing notes and reviewing the story. Remind children that Paul and Silas were missionaries. Say that missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.
- » **Learn the Bible Verse.** Sing “T-E-L-L.” Open the Bible to the Weekly Verse marker and comment that today’s verse is in the Book of Mark, the second book of the New Testament. Repeat the verse together. Ask a child who she will tell the good news about Jesus.
- » **Wrap it up.** Show the “Paul and Silas Sang to God” video. Offer to let a preschooler pray. Pray, thanking God for people who tell about Him.

CHOOSE

your own

SCHEDULE

Decide when to have group time; then select learning activities to use before and/or after group time.



- » Pack Items 15, 33: “Weekly Verses,” “Unit 3 Life Point Map”
- » Teaching Pictures 10–13
- » Music
- » Videos
- » Bible, streamers or lengths of ribbon, sticky notes
- » Place the Weekly Verse marker at the verse in the Bible. Cover today’s Teaching Picture with sticky notes.



BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- › Pack Item 43: “Unit 3 Verse Puzzle”
- › Kids Activity Page
- › Music
- › Bible, assortment of locks and keys, crayons

- › Pack Item 41: “Road Pieces”
- › Bible, blocks, toy vehicles, flat cardboard pieces

- › Pack Item 34: “Unit 3 Word Cards” (Acts, Bible)
- › Teaching Picture 13
- › Bible, robes, sleeping bags, blankets, quilts, baby dolls, cribs, child-size rocking chair

- › Printables: “Booklet: My World”
- › Bible, markers, metal brad fasteners, hole punch, scissors

EXPLORE LOCKS AND KEYS

Mark the Bible at Acts 16 with an Activity Page. Cut apart the puzzle pieces.

- › Help each child complete the Kids Activity Page. Mention that Paul and Silas were in jail; they chose to sing praises to God even though they might have been afraid.
- › Guide a child to locate a key that matches a lock. Open the Bible to Acts 16 and comment that this is the place where we read that God made Paul’s and Silas’ chains fall from their feet.
- › Lead preschoolers to work the puzzle. Read the verse.
- › Turn the page in the Bible to Mark 16:15 and touch the verse.
- › Play “Tell the World About Jesus” and sing together. (*Puzzles*)

BUILD AND KNOCK DOWN A CITY

- › Invite boys and girls to build a city with blocks on top of the cardboard pieces. Construct buildings, arrange roads, 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.
- › Help a child open the Bible to Acts 16. Find and touch the name *Paul*.
- › Say the Life Point. Remark that no matter what happened to them, Paul and Silas kept telling about Jesus. (*Blocks*)

EXPLORE NIGHTTIME PLAY

Spread sleeping bags on the floor. Mark Acts in the Bible with word card.

- › Invite children to play out bedtime or other nighttime rituals. Suggest a child look through the Bible for pictures of Jesus. Ask him to tell a friend about Jesus while the friend lies on a sleeping bag.
- › Encourage other children to prepare the dolls for bedtime. They can dress the dolls, wrap them in blankets, rock them, and lay them in cribs.
- › Look at the Teaching Picture. Tell preschoolers that Paul and Silas were praying and singing while in jail. In the nighttime, while the jailer was sleeping, an earthquake came. Continue talking about the Bible story.
- › Open the Bible to the Book of Acts. Say that in this Bible book, we read about Paul and others telling about Jesus.
- › Mention that missionaries today sometimes visit scary places. But God helps them tell about Jesus, even if they might be afraid. (*Dramatic Play*)

CREATE A BOOKLET

Print and cut out one set of circles per child. Punch holes where indicated.

- › Show children each page of the booklet. Read the words on each page. Suggest a preschooler consider ways she can help her family,

community, and world hear about Jesus. Lead the children to draw pictures or print words on their sets of pages.

- › Open Bible to the Unit Verse. Comment that Paul and Silas told the good news about Jesus at all times; because they did, many people believed.
- › Arrange pages and bind with a fastener when a child finishes her booklet. (Art)

MAKE AND PLAY SHAKERS

Place the marker at today's verse. Print the verse on cups (1 per child). Post the Allergy Alert.

- › Help a child spoon a couple of spoonfuls of rice into a cup with a verse. Invert a second (blank) cup and place it on top of the first, edge to edge. Secure the cups together with tape.
- › Invite children to add stickers and tape strips to the sides of their shakers. Play "I Know" 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. (Music)

EXPLORE TIME OBJECTS

- › Turn the globe. Talk about daytime and nighttime. Mention that when it is daytime in our area, it is nighttime on the other side of the world.
- › Invite preschoolers to explore the time objects. Count along with a stopwatch. Watch sand fall through an hourglass. Set an alarm.
- › Look at the missions pictures. Say that missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus. Find Africa on the globe.
- › Remark that missionaries live, work, and sleep near the people they tell about Jesus. God wants people to tell about Jesus at all times. (Nature)

TALK ABOUT IT

Print a copy of the coloring page and the handout for each child.

- › Color the picture and talk about how Paul and Silas kept on telling about Jesus at all times.
- › Use the handout as a guide and talk about ways a preschooler's family can become more aware of people who need to hear about Jesus.
- › Read the book. Comment that Paul and his friends obeyed God when they went from place to place to tell people the good news about Jesus.
- › Say that missionaries tell about God and Jesus all over the world. Look at books about missionaries and pray for them.

CLEAN UP

- › Play "Tell the World About Jesus" as children clean. Thank boys and girls for working together to get the job done.

- › Pack Item 15: "Weekly Verses"
- › Printables: "Allergy Alert"
- › Music
- › 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 (teacher use)
- › Printables: "Unit 3 Missions"
- › Globe, stopwatches, egg timers, alarm clocks, hourglasses
- › Pack Item 37: "Book: The First Missionaries"
- › Printables: "Paul and Silas Sang to God" Coloring Page, "Handout: Families Can Tell About Jesus" (1 per child)
- › Crayons, books about missionaries

- › Music