

Reality – Bible Lesson for July 26, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

Worship

Lesson 4: Paul and Silas Singing in Prison

- 1. Lesson: Paul and Silas Singing in Prison**
- 2. Scripture:** Acts 16:16-40
- 3. Memory Verse:** "I will sing to the LORD all my life. I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." Psalm 104:33
- 4. Mission Story:** Resumes in the Fall
- 5. Bible Skills:** Resumes in the Fall
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson** - a Bible; a 1-gallon resealable plastic bag filled with water; two to four very sharp pencils; large bowl **Memory Verse Game:** Write or type the Bible verse on a sheet of paper. Cut the words or phrases apart. You will also need tape.

Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7qcHEDjk6w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtV2PV9n3cY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y24Ak7DJZFg>

1. Prayer: Pray with your children – then introduce the following object lesson:

Fill the resealable bag with water and seal it. (Hold it over a large bowl – just in case 😊)

Hold up the bag and a very sharp pencil. Ask, "What happens if you poke a pencil through a bag of water like this? Will the water pour out? Why or why not?"

Say "Let's see what happens. I'm going to stick this pencil right through the bag. I hope you don't get wet!"

- Stick the pencil through one side of the bag and out the other and leave it in place. The pencil will act as a plug, so water won't leak through. (Make sure you don't try to remove the pencil, or the water will shoot out of the bag ☹)

Say: "What do you think will happen if I keep sticking in pencils? Let's try it with the rest of the pencils to see if it always works."

Poke the rest of the pencils through the bag in the same manner, leaving them in place. The bag won't leak.

Ask "Can you explain why the bag isn't leaking?"

Say "The pencils work like a plug to stop the water from pouring out."

Sometimes bad things happen in our lives. Kind of like these sharp pencils, they seem to poke right through us and hurt us."

God doesn't cause bad things, but he uses even bad things for our good. Like the bag uses the sharp pencils to block the holes so they don't leak, God takes the bad things in our lives, the things that hurt us, and uses them to help us be stronger. And for that, we can truly praise God!

You may have sung the song, "Rejoice in the Lord Always." (Here is the link to the song) ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttIyZQKzfPE>

Say: Did you know that those words in that song came directly from the Bible: Paul wrote those words. Paul said to rejoice in the Lord always (even when bad things happen). Let's listen to today's story to find out more about this, because - **Even on the worst days and in the worst situations, you can still sing, have joy in your heart, and praise the Lord.**

2.Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

The Apostle, Paul, was a missionary. He and his friends (Silas, Timothy, and Luke) travelled to many places teaching people about Jesus. When they were in the city of Philippi they liked to go to a quiet place by a river where people would meet to pray. One time, when Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke were traveling to the river to pray, they were followed by a young slave girl. As they walked to the river, the girl began to shout, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." Even though that sounded like a good thing, she kept following after them and yelling the same thing over and over. Soon no one could hear Paul and his friends talking about Jesus because the slave girl was interrupting them with her shouting. She followed Paul and Silas around for many days.

This slave girl was not a believer and did not have the Holy Spirit living inside her heart. She had an evil spirit living inside her. The evil spirit enabled this slave girl to predict the future. Her owners made a lot of money from her because many people paid them to have her tell them their future. Paul became annoyed with her shouting, but he knew the slave girl was not acting like she would normally act. So, he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment, the spirit left her, and she was herself again. **(Acts 16:16-18)**

The slave girl's owners were angry that Paul made the evil spirit leave the girl. Without the evil spirit living in her she could not tell people's futures. If she could not tell the future, then no one would pay them money. The girl's owners grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the marketplace in the middle of the city. They took the two men straight to the magistrates, who are like judges in a court. The owners of the slave girl told lies about Paul and Silas and complained to the magistrates. The magistrates did not want any trouble, so they decided to put Paul and Silas in prison without having a trial. **(Acts 16:19-22)** The magistrates of the town ordered that the jailer guard them carefully, so he placed them in a cell in the middle of the prison and put their feet in stocks. (Leg stocks that would go around the prisoner's ankles in such a way that they could not remove their feet and could not move from their position.) Then the jailer locked the door. **(Acts 16:23-24)**

If you were Paul and Silas, what do you think you would do as you lay there in the dark, cold cell? They could have cried and said they wanted to go home. They could have been angry and shouted how unfair their treatment was. But we know that believers have power from the Holy Spirit to respond with faith and courage. Paul and Silas must have been in pain in the dark prison, but they did not give up. Because both men were filled with the Holy Spirit, they chose not to focus on their unfair treatment but focused on God's character. They knew that God is powerful. They knew that their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, had suffered far more than they had when He was crucified on the cross. Because they chose to worship and praise God in their difficulties it caused the other prisoners to listen to them as they prayed and sang.

In the middle of the night, the other prisoners heard them singing and praying from their cell. The Holy Spirit used Paul and Silas to be witnesses for Jesus to these prisoners. Even though all of these terrible things were happening to them they still praised God and rejoiced. **(Acts 16:25)** While they were singing, something amazing happened! A huge earthquake shook the entire prison. **(Acts 16:26)**

The chains fell off of the prisoners and the cell doors flew open! The jailer rushed in and saw all the doors open. He thought the prisoners had escaped! He knew he would be killed if even one prisoner was gone, so he took his sword out to take his own life. But Paul shouted at him to stop because none of the prisoners had escaped. **(Acts 16:27-28)** As tempting as it may have been to leave, they had all stayed.

The jailer took a light and saw the truth. He fell at the feet of Paul and Silas and asked what he needed to do to be saved. Paul told the man to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and he would be saved - he and his entire household. And the man did. This is an important passage for the message of faith. All that is needed is faith in Jesus. The jailer didn't need to perform any works - he only needed to believe in the Lord Jesus. He washed the wounds of Paul and Silas and then he and his family were baptized. **(Acts 16:29-33)** They all shared a meal together at the jailer's house and then Paul and Silas returned to the prison. **(Acts 16:34)**

The next day, when the leaders learned that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they let them out of prison. **(Acts 16:35-36)** The leaders became afraid of Paul and Silas because of the way they had treated them and pleaded with them to go quietly and leave the town. Paul and Silas went back to Lydia's house, encouraged the new church, and the men left the city to go and tell others about Jesus. **(Acts 16:38-40)** They had shown the people in Philippi that God wants us to trust Him, praise Him and thank Him no matter what – for who He is. Jesus is our hope in this world, and He is always in control.

Years after leaving Philippi, Paul wrote a letter to the church there. This letter is in your Bible and it is called the Book of Philippians. One of the things Paul wrote in the letter is - "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say rejoice!"

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

1. What town were Paul and his missionary friends visiting? (Philippi)
2. Who was with Paul? (Silas, Timothy, and Luke)
3. In whose house were they staying? (Lydia's house)
4. How was the slave girl bothering Paul and Silas in Philippi? (She was following them and yelling when they were trying to teach people.)
5. Why were the slave girl's owners angry at Paul and Silas? (Their slave girl could not tell fortunes anymore, so they could not make money.)
6. Why did the leaders of the city beat Paul and Silas and put them in prison? (The slave girl's owners had lied about them when they had the two men dragged to the authorities)
7. Were Paul and Silas afraid in prison? (No. They trusted God)
8. What did Paul and Silas do in prison? (They sang and prayed.)
9. Why was the jailer about to harm himself? (An earthquake opened the prison doors and all of the prisoners' chains fell off. He thought the prisoners would escape and that he would be killed.)
10. Why did Paul and Silas stay in the prison? (They didn't want the jailer to be harmed and they wanted the city rulers to set them free legally.)
11. Who was saved and baptized that night? (The jailer and his entire household)

4. Prayer/Journaling:

Read **Philippians 4:4** and **1 Corinthians 3:16**. God is not limited by time or place. You can worship in a church building, airplane, dentist's office, playground, home, or... anywhere. The Bible teaches that your body is God's temple. A temple is a place of worship. And worship doesn't just happen at church, it's part of who you are. You can

worship God privately or with other believers. God wants you to worship Him all the time – morning, noon, afternoon, evening, and night. God wants the things you do to be part of your worship of Him. Everything you do should praise God.

Pray: I thank you, God, that I can worship you at any time. Please help me remember to worship wherever I am. (Sing any praise song you wish to sing.) [Let's take time now to pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. (Take prayer requests)]

5.Mission Story: Resumes in the Fall

6.Bible Skills: Resumes in the Fall

7.Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse one more time – "I will sing to the LORD all my life. I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." Psalm 104:33

Hot Seat Bible Verses

Before Class: Write or type the Bible verse on a sheet of paper. Cut the words apart. Tape a word under random chairs in the room. After your kids are seated, ask them to look under their chairs to see if they are sitting in one of the "hot seats" – a chair that has a word (or several words) under it. Whoever finds a word under their chair brings it to the front. The kids must arrange themselves in a line, each holding up their word, so that the words are in the correct order.

8.Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.