

UNIT 9, SESSION 3

PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON

ACTS 16

KEY POINT

God is always with His children.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is always with us? God is always with us!

MEMORY VERSE

And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. **2 Corinthians 5:15**

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

This week, we learn about praising God in hard places. We get to help our children see a powerful truth through the story of Paul and Silas: Sometimes, doing the right thing doesn't make everyone happy. In fact, sometimes it brings trouble.

Paul and Silas were not punished for doing something wrong. They were beaten and thrown into prison for helping a girl and telling people about Jesus. From a worldly perspective, they had every reason to complain. They were hurting. They were treated unfairly. They were locked in a dark jail.

But instead of whining, they worshiped. They prayed. They sang hymns. In the middle of pain and injustice, they chose praise.

As leaders, this is an important reminder. Ministry can sometimes make us feel unnoticed, misunderstood, or even criticized. We may not always feel appreciated for doing what is right. The question is not whether hard things will happen, but how we will respond when they do.

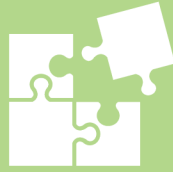
Paul and Silas remind us that our response matters. Worship in the hard places becomes a testimony. When you challenge others to pray instead of complain, you are planting seeds of spiritual maturity.

Our messy cross is more than our church logo; it's a picture of God's sovereignty. What looks like a mess and a mistake in our hands becomes something beautiful in His. The prison cell became a place of worship. The messiness became a testimony.

God is always near, even when we cannot see Him clearly. Even when the light feels dim, He has promised never to leave or forsake His children.

Your faithfulness in the small moments matters more than you know. You're not just telling a Bible story; you're shaping hearts to trust God in hard places. And He is with us every step of the way.

WELCOME & OPENING



Connect with children as service starts.

WELCOME

Play music through the undercabinet radio (flash drive), or connect your phone to Bluetooth through the radio and play Christian preschool/Bible songs as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

And He died for all, that those who live
should no longer live for themselves
but for Him who died for them
and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:15
2 Corinthians 5:15

THE LORD’S PRAYER/TEN COMMANDMENTS

Toddlers & Twos: Use the provided poster to review the Lord’s Prayer with the children in your class.

Threes & Fours: Using the provided poster, review the Ten Commandments with the children in your class. Read through each one, then have children repeat after you as you say them together.

CRAFT



Help children with a craft connected to the lesson.

CRAFT: PAPER CHAIN

Take one of the provided paper strips and some tape and demonstrate how to curve the paper into a circle, then tape the loop in place. Help children link a second strip through the first to start making one big paper chain as a class.

Use the chain to talk about the Bible lesson as children work. Sing and praise God as a class like Paul and Silas did in jail.





BABIES & TWOS BIBLE LESSON

Paul and Silas helped a girl and were then thrown into jail—even though they did nothing wrong! They were hurt and trapped, but still prayed and sang praises to God.

Suddenly, God sent a huge earthquake. The prison doors flew open, and their chains came loose. They were free! The guard was going to hurt himself because he was going to get in big trouble. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

The guard couldn’t believe it. He asked Paul what he must do to be saved, and Paul told him. The guard listened and believed in Jesus! His family also believed in Jesus, and they were all saved!

THREES & FOURS BIBLE LESSON

Paul and Silas traveled the world telling people about Jesus. Some people were very happy to hear about Jesus, but others were very angry because they wanted to keep doing evil things. They ordered Paul and Silas to be arrested, beaten, and thrown in jail. The jailer locked Paul and Silas in jail and put their feet in stocks. The jail was not a nice place, but Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God. They remembered that God is always good and worthy of praise.

Suddenly, there was an earthquake. Paul and Silas’ chains fell off and the prison doors opened. They were free! God had rescued them. The jailer woke up in a panic. If the prisoners escaped, he would be in big trouble.

Paul and Silas shouted to the jailer, “We didn’t run away!” Paul and Silas told him all about Jesus. The jailer believed in Jesus. He took Paul and Silas to his house to tell his family about Jesus. The jailer and all his household were baptized.

KEY POINT: God is always with His children.

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Have everyone wash their hands, then serve a snack. Ask the following questions and retell parts of the lesson as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible lesson?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible lesson?
3. What did Paul and Silas do while they were in prison?
4. Who is always with us? **God is always with us!**

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Sing the clean up song. Have children help put toys on tables.

Gather them on the rug in a circle and have one volunteer read today's Bible lesson from the children's Bible. Have a regular Bible ready as well.

Sing the "B.I.B.L.E." and "Everything in the Bible is Absolutely True" songs. Remind children that the Bible is God's Word and the most important book in the whole world!

The other volunteer should stand at the door and help with pick up, matching stickers, gathering children's things, etc.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return binders to the cabinet.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!