

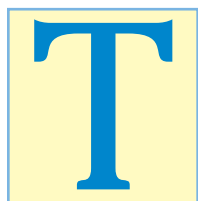


LESSON 8

REFERENCES: ACTS 16:16-34; THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, PP. 211-220.

Prison Praises

Paul and Silas were in jail. They could easily have grumbled and complained, but they loved Jesus and did some things very differently. Let's see how they shared Jesus.



These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how you can be saved!"



Paul and Silas spun around. A girl with an evil spirit followed them. Her masters made money by listening to this evil spirit and then telling people what was going to happen to them. For days the girl followed and shouted the same message after Paul and Silas.

Memory Verse

"Do what is right
... in the eyes of
the Lord."

2 CORINTHIANS 8:21, NIV.

The Message

We share Jesus by
doing what is right.

Even though what the girl was saying was right, it was not good for people to think that Christians had anything to do with evil spirits. So Paul finally turned to the girl and ordered the evil spirit, "By the power of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" The evil spirit left the girl immediately, and she became quiet. The servant girl's masters became very, very angry. They

dragged Paul and Silas to the city rulers. "These men are Jews, and they are making trouble!" they shouted. "They are teaching things that are unlawful for us to practice!"

An angry crowd gathered and heard them. They began to beat Paul and Silas with big sticks. So the rulers threw Paul and Silas into jail.

Even though they were in pain, that night Paul and Silas began to pray and sing praises to God. The other prisoners and the jailer couldn't believe what they were hearing! About midnight the ground suddenly shook so hard that all the doors of the jail fell open, and all the chains fell off the prisoners. The jailer was sure all the prisoners had escaped. He shook with fear. He believed he would be punished because the prisoners were gone.

But just then Paul shouted, "We are all here!"

"Bring me a light!" the jailer called to a servant. He ran to look for himself. Not one prisoner had run away!

The jailer took Paul and Silas to his own home. There he fed them and listened as they told him about Jesus. "Men," he said, "what must I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas smiled. "Just believe!" they said. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

"I believe," the jailer said as he tenderly washed Paul's and Silas's wounds.

Before the night was over, Paul and Silas baptized the jailer and all his family.

Paul and Silas did the right things. They praised God even when bad things happened to them. And they showed the jailer about Jesus' love. You can share about Jesus by doing what is right too.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story and review the memory verse:

Do what is With palms down, move hands from side to side.
right Lift up right hand.
in the eyes Point to eyes.
of the Lord. Point fingers up; bring the side of the hand from forehead to chin.
2 Corinthians . . . Palms together, then open.
8:21

SUNDAY

Encourage your child to share the memory verse chain made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Paul and Silas in prison. Or make a paper chain by joining strips of paper with a memory verse word written on each.

MONDAY

Read together Acts 16:16–34. Ask: What did the jailer do for Paul and Silas? What did they do for the jailer?

Tell your child about your baptism. What did it mean to you? Let them “baptize” a doll, or duck their head under the water at bath time.

TUESDAY

Have your child sit on the floor as you bind their legs together with yarn or a scarf. Ask: Can you stand up? What was it like for Paul and Silas?

Sing praise songs together before prayer. Thank Jesus for keeping your family safe.

WEDNESDAY

Let your child build a tower with building blocks or empty boxes, then pretend to feel (make) an earthquake and knock it down. Ask: How do you think Paul and Silas felt during the earthquake? Who watched over them? Why didn't they run away? Thank Jesus for watching over your child.

Collect community service project items to take to Sabbath School.



THURSDAY

Look in your medicine cupboard together. Talk about what is good for cuts and bruises. Let your child put an adhesive bandage on you. Thank Jesus for His healing power.

FRIDAY

For worship, help your child act out the lesson story. Get a big box or laundry basket for the jail, and have your child sit in it. Shake it as if an earthquake is happening.

Sing praise songs and pray together as Paul and Silas did.

