

# Paul And Silas

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** God is with us in times of trouble

**Scripture:** Acts 16

**Memory Verse:** "They prayed and sang hymns to God and the prisoners listened to them." Acts 16:25

## The Children's Sermon

Paul and Silas were two friends who loved to talk about God. They traveled to many places to tell people about God's love. But not everyone liked what they were saying. One day, they got into trouble for helping someone, and they were taken to jail. Their ankles were put in chains, and their backs hurt because they were beaten. They were cold, hungry, and sad in jail. But do you know what they did? They prayed and sang songs to God because they loved Him and knew He was there with them, even in jail.

Paul and Silas in jail didn't let their spirits get down. They knew that God was with them, no matter where they were or how bad things seemed. And something amazing happened. While they were singing and praying, all of a sudden, there was a big earthquake. The ground shook, the chains fell off their feet, and the doors of the jail opened. But Paul and Silas didn't run away. They stayed right where they were.

The jail keeper was very scared when he woke up. He thought all the prisoners had run away. If the prisoners escaped, he would be in big trouble. But Paul called out to him, "Don't be afraid! We are all here!" The jail keeper was so surprised and asked Paul and Silas how he could be saved. They told him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be

saved—you and your household." That night, the jail keeper and his whole family believed in God, and they were all very happy.

This story of Paul and Silas in jail teaches us some important lessons. Even when things are tough, we can still talk to God. We can pray and sing to Him because He is always with us, listening. And sometimes, God does amazing things when we trust in Him.

Paul and Silas in jail also showed us how to be brave. Even though they were in a scary place, they didn't try to run away when they had the chance. They knew God had a plan for them, and they trusted Him. Because of their bravery, the jail keeper and his family got to learn about God's love.

Another cool thing about Paul and Silas in jail is how they cared for others. They could have just thought about themselves and escaped, but they stayed to make sure the jail keeper was okay. They even shared God's love with him and his family. It shows us that we can help others and tell them about God, no matter where we are or what is happening around us.

Paul and Silas in jail weren't alone. God was with them, and He helped them through a tough time. It's like when we are scared or sad; we can remember that God is with us too. We can talk to Him, sing songs, and remember that He loves us very much.

So, what can we learn from Paul and Silas in jail? We learn to trust God, be brave, care for others, and remember that God is always with us. Even when things are scary or sad, we can be like Paul and Silas, praying and singing to God, knowing He's listening and He's with us.

Remember, no matter where you are, whether you're at home, at school, or somewhere else, God is there with you. You can talk to Him anytime, just like Paul and Silas did in jail. And who knows? Maybe God will use you to do amazing things and help others learn about His love, just like He did with Paul and Silas.

So, let's be brave and kind, and always remember to talk to God, because He loves hearing from us. And just like Paul and Silas in jail, we can make a big difference in the world, one prayer and one song at a time.

## Bible Memory Verse

**“They prayed and sang hymns to God and the prisoners listened to them.” Acts 16:25**

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Markers or crayons
- String or yarn

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into large, music note shapes.
- Write one word of the memory verse on each music note with markers or crayons.

Do This:

1. Mix up the music notes and spread them out on a table or the floor.
2. Ask the children to find the notes and arrange them in the correct order to form the memory verse.

3. Once the verse is correctly arranged, have the children string the notes together with the yarn, creating a hanging decoration. Encourage them to hang it in their room as a reminder that God is with us in times of trouble and we can pray and sing hymns to Him just like Paul and Silas did.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large cardboard box (to represent the prison)
- Blue construction paper (to represent the midnight sky)
- Star stickers
- Flashlights (one for each child)
- A speaker or device to play music
- A printed map of Philippi (optional)
- Printed pictures of Paul and Silas

Get Ready:

1. Cut the front side of the cardboard box open to make it look like an open jail cell.
2. Decorate the inside of the box with the blue construction paper and star stickers to resemble a night sky.
3. Prepare a playlist with songs about God's presence and help in times of trouble.
4. Place the box, flashlights, and speaker in your teaching area.
5. If using, lay out the map of Philippi and pictures of Paul and Silas near the "jail cell."

Do this:

1. **\*\*Introduction\*\***: Show the children the map of Philippi (if using) and pictures of Paul and Silas. Briefly explain who Paul and Silas were and how they ended up in jail for

doing good things and talking about Jesus. Emphasize that even in jail, God was with them.

2. **Interactive Storytelling**: Invite the children to sit around the "jail cell." As you recount the story from Acts 16, focusing on verses 16-34, have the children use the flashlights to shine light inside the "jail cell," representing the presence of God with Paul and Silas. When you get to the part about the earthquake, gently shake the box to simulate the event.

3. **Sing and Praise**: Play the songs you've prepared about God being our helper in times of trouble. Encourage the children to sing along and think about how Paul and Silas might have felt singing praises to God even in jail. Explain that just like God was with Paul and Silas, He is with us whenever we're scared or in trouble.

4. **Reflection and Prayer**: After singing, invite the children to share a time they felt scared or in trouble and remind them that God is always with them, just like He was with Paul and Silas. Close with a prayer, asking God to help the children remember His constant presence, especially in difficult times.

## Snack Activity: Jailhouse Rock Treats

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Blue frosting
- Mini marshmallows
- Pretzel sticks
- Plastic knives or spreaders

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a clean table. Make sure each child has a small plate and a plastic knife or spreader.

Do this:

1. Tell the children about Paul and Silas in Acts 16, how they were put in jail even though they didn't do anything wrong. But they trusted God even in that scary time, and God was with them. Explain that the graham cracker is like the jail cell, but we're going to see how God's presence (the blue frosting) fills the place with hope.
2. Have each child take a graham cracker and spread blue frosting over it to represent God's presence filling the jail cell where Paul and Silas were. Discuss how God is with us in times of trouble, just like He was with Paul and Silas.
3. Use the mini marshmallows and pretzel sticks to decorate the 'jail cell.' The marshmallows can be Paul and Silas, and the pretzel sticks can be the bars of the jail cell. As they decorate, remind them that even when things seem tough, God is always with us, helping us through our troubles.

## Game Activity: Escape to Freedom: The Acts 16 Adventure

You'll Need:

- A large open space, preferably outdoors
- Chalk or tape to mark the ground
- Small bells or noise-making items
- Story cards with scenarios based on Acts 16 (e.g., Paul and Silas in prison, earthquake, singing praises to God)

Get Ready: Before the game, draw a large hopscotch-like path on the ground with chalk or lay out tape. This path represents Paul and Silas's journey. Place the small bells or noise-makers at various points along the path to represent the earthquake. Write or print out scenarios from Acts 16 on small cards and place them along the path.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into small groups. Each group represents Paul and Silas. Explain that they are on a journey, and along the way, they will encounter troubles but must remember that God is with them.
2. Children start at the beginning of the path. When they reach a story card, they stop and read the scenario (or have a teacher read it). Discuss briefly how Paul and Silas might have felt but remind them that God was with them.
3. After discussing, they continue to the next card. When they step on a bell or noise-maker, remind them that this represents the earthquake that freed Paul and Silas. It's a sign that God is always working, even in tough times.
4. The game ends when the groups reach the end of the path, symbolizing their 'escape to freedom' with God's help. Conclude with a short discussion on how God helps us in times of trouble, just like He did for Paul and Silas.

## Craft Activity: Paul and Silas Prayer Chains

You'll Need:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Stapler or tape

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into strips about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long.

Do this:

1. Share the story of Paul and Silas in prison from Acts 16, focusing on how they prayed and sang hymns to God even in a difficult situation. Explain that God was with them, and He is with us too when we face troubles.
2. Ask the children to think of prayers or praises to God, especially for times when they feel scared or in trouble. They can write or draw these on the strips of paper.
3. Link the strips together to form a chain, securing each link with a stapler or tape. As you build the chain, remind the children that just like each link is connected, we are connected to God and each other, especially in hard times.
4. Display the prayer chains in the classroom as a reminder that God is with us in times of trouble and we can always pray and praise Him, just like Paul and Silas did.

## Prayer Activity: Prayer Pebbles: God's Presence in Trouble

You'll Need:

- Small pebbles or stones (one for each child)
- Permanent markers
- A bowl or basket

Get Ready: Collect enough small, smooth pebbles so each child can have one. Place them in a bowl or basket in the center of your meeting area.

Do this:



1. Share the story from Acts 16 where Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God even when they were in prison. Explain that this shows us God is with us even in hard times.
2. Invite each child to choose a pebble from the bowl. Explain that the pebble will remind them that God is always with them, especially during tough times.
3. Ask the children to think of a time they felt scared or in trouble. Then, using the permanent markers, have them draw a symbol on their pebble that represents God's presence and protection (e.g., a heart, cross, or smiley face).
4. Close with a group prayer, inviting each child to hold their pebble tightly. Encourage them to say a silent prayer, asking God to help them remember He is with them in times of trouble.