

Paul And Silas

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: God is with us in times of trouble

Scripture: Acts 16

Memory Verse: Acts 16:31, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'

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

Acts 16:31, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into strips before the class.
- Write 'Acts 16:31' on a board or a large piece of paper where all the children can see.

Do This:

1. Ask the children to sit in a circle and read Acts 16:31 together. Discuss what it means to believe in the Lord Jesus.
2. Give each child several strips of colored paper, markers or crayons, and a glue stick. Ask them to write 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.' on one strip of paper and decorate it.
3. Show the children how to make a chain by gluing the ends of the strips together, linking each new strip into the previous one. Encourage them to add decorated strips to their chain while discussing who in their household they can share this message with.
4. Once everyone has made their chain, gather the chains together and connect them to form a class chain. Hang the chain in the classroom as a reminder of the verse and the power of belief.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copies of Acts 16
- Strips of paper with pre-written challenges or "troubles" (e.g., being stuck in a situation where you need help)
- A small, lockable box and key
- Paper and pens for each child
- A speaker and a recording of a song of praise (choose a song that's appropriate for children and reflects the theme of praising God in difficult times)

Get Ready:

- Write different challenges on strips of paper and lock them inside the box.
- Prepare a space where children can sit in a circle.
- Test the speaker and song to ensure they work properly.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to Acts 16**: Start by summarizing Acts 16, focusing on Paul and Silas being imprisoned and how they responded to their trouble by praying and singing hymns to God. Emphasize that even in tough times, God is with us, and we can still find reasons to praise Him.
2. **Unlocking Troubles Activity**: Place the locked box in the center of the circle and explain that inside the box are different "troubles" similar to what Paul and Silas might have felt. Pass around the key, allowing each child to unlock the box and draw a strip of paper. Let them share how they might feel in that situation and how they can still find hope or joy in God despite the trouble. This encourages empathy and understanding of the scripture.
3. **Praise in the Midst of Trouble**: After discussing the troubles, tell the children that just like Paul and Silas, they can choose to praise God no matter what. Play the song of praise you've chosen and encourage the children to sing along. This can be a joyful and uplifting moment, reinforcing the lesson.
4. **Reflection and Prayer**: Conclude with a reflection where children can write down one trouble they are facing or worried about and a prayer asking for God's help and thanking Him for being with them always. Collect the papers (if the children are comfortable sharing) and pray together, asking God to help each child recognize His presence in times of trouble.

This activity combines listening, speaking, writing, and singing, engaging children in multiple ways and helping them connect personally with the message of Acts 16.

Snack Activity: Jailhouse Rock Treats

You'll Need:

- Pretzel sticks
- Marshmallows (large)
- Chocolate chips
- Black food coloring
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

Get Ready: Mix a few drops of black food coloring with a small bowl of water. Soak the pretzel sticks in the mixture until they turn dark (like jail bars). Let them dry on a paper towel. Melt the chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl in 30-second intervals, stirring in between, until smooth.

Do this:

1. Once the pretzels are dry, use them to create 'jail cells' around a marshmallow. You might need to break some pretzels to make them fit. Stick them into the marshmallow to hold them upright, creating a square shape.
2. Dip the tip of a toothpick into the melted chocolate and use it to draw 'chains' on another marshmallow, symbolizing Paul and Silas being in chains.
3. Discuss how even though Paul and Silas were in jail (represented by the marshmallow jail), they prayed and sang hymns to God, showing that God is with us in times of trouble. Enjoy eating the treats as you talk about how God helped them escape.

Game Activity: Escape from the Midnight Jail

You'll Need:

- A large open space, preferably outdoors
- Chalk or tape for marking areas
- Index cards with different Acts 16 scenarios written on them
- A bell or whistle
- Music player for background music (optional)

Get Ready: Mark two areas on opposite ends of the play area: one as 'Jail' and the other as 'Freedom'. Write scenarios from Acts 16 on index cards, focusing on Paul and Silas's imprisonment and miraculous escape. Scenarios can include 'Singing in jail', 'Earthquake!', 'Chains fall off', and 'Jailer wakes up'. Divide the children into two teams: Prisoners (Paul and Silas) and Jailers.

Do this:

1. The game starts with the Prisoners in the Jail area and the Jailers spread out between Jail and Freedom. The objective for the Prisoners is to reach Freedom without being tagged by the Jailers. If tagged, they go back to Jail and start over.
2. Throughout the game, randomly draw an Acts 16 scenario card and read it aloud. When a scenario is read, all players freeze, and the Prisoners perform the scenario action (e.g., 'Singing in jail' means they hum or sing a song). This gives them a 5-second head start when the game resumes.
3. The game ends when all Prisoners reach Freedom or after a set time limit. Discuss how God was with Paul and Silas in their time of trouble and how He can be with us too.

Craft Activity: Freedom in Faith Lanterns

You'll Need:

- Mason jars or clear plastic cups
- Tissue paper (various colors)
- Mod Podge or clear school glue
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea lights
- Permanent markers
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut the tissue paper into various shapes and sizes. Read Acts 16, focusing on the story of Paul and Silas in prison and how their faith set them free.

Do this:

1. Use the paintbrush to apply a thin layer of Mod Podge or glue on the outside of the mason jar or plastic cup.
2. Stick the tissue paper pieces onto the jar or cup, overlapping them to create a stained glass effect. You can create patterns or random designs. Once covered, apply another layer of Mod Podge or glue over the tissue paper to seal it.
3. While the jars are drying, discuss Acts 16 and how Paul and Silas were freed from prison by an earthquake but chose to stay until they were released properly, showing faithfulness and integrity. Reflect on how God is with us during times of trouble.
4. Once the jars are dry, use permanent markers to write favorite verses from Acts 16 or messages of faith on the jars.
5. Place a battery-operated tea light inside the jar to illuminate it. Talk about how, like the light, God's presence can bring peace and hope in dark times.

Prayer Activity: God is With Us in Times of Trouble

You'll Need:

- A Bible or Bible app
- Blankets or large sheets
- Flashlights

Get Ready: Create a 'prison cell' by arranging chairs into a small square and draping blankets over them to create a dark space. Place flashlights inside the 'cell'.

Do this:

1. Read Acts 16:16-40 together, focusing on the story of Paul and Silas in prison. Discuss how they were put in jail for doing good and how they reacted to their situation.
2. Enter the 'prison cell' you've created with the flashlights off to simulate the darkness of a jail. Once inside, encourage the children to sing praises and pray together, just as Paul and Silas did. This can include prayers for courage, for those who are in trouble, and for the ability to trust God in difficult times.
3. After spending some time in prayer and song, turn on the flashlights and exit the 'cell'. Discuss how Paul and Silas were freed by an earthquake and what this teaches us about God's presence and power in times of trouble.