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Acts 16 Prison Break Bible
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Lesson 13: A PHILIPPIAN JAILER BECOMES A CHRISTIAN ACTS 16:16-40



Paul and his team went to Philippi. While they were preaching, a young slave girl began shouting, “These men [can tell you how] to be saved.” She kept following them and yelling the same thing over and over.



Paul knew something was wrong with the girl. An evil spirit was making her shout. Paul said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the evil spirit left her! She stopped screaming! She was OK!



The girl must have been happy! But, her slave owners were angry. They used to get lots of money from people who paid money to talk to the fortune teller. But now, no one would pay. So, the slave owners became very angry! They had Paul and Silas arrested and put into prison.

The prison guards beat Paul and Silas. The jailer wanted to make sure they did not escape, so he put wooden stocks around Paul and Silas’ feet. The prison was a dark and scary place. But Paul and Silas were not afraid. They knew God would help them. In fact, Paul and Silas sat in the stocks singing to God!





At midnight, while Paul and Silas were singing hymns, a huge earthquake shook the entire prison. Then the chains fell off all of the prisoners and the cell doors flew open.

The Jailer rushed into the prison and saw that all of the doors were open. He thought all the prisoners had escaped. He knew he could be killed for letting prisoners escape. He took out his sword and started to kill himself.



But Paul shouted, “Don’t hurt yourself! We’re all here!” None of the prisoners had left! The Jailer realized that this was from God. He fell down trembling and said, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul told him, “You must believe in Jesus.”

He took Paul and Silas to his house so that his whole family could learn about Jesus. The Jailer put medicine on Paul and Silas’ wounds. Then the Jailer and everyone in his household was baptized. They were so happy to be Christians!

The next day Paul and Silas were let out of prison. They visited with the other Christians in Philippi and then continued on their journey.



Paul and Silas had been through hard times. But they knew that, no matter what happens, **it’s always worth it to trust and follow Jesus.** They never stopped teaching people about King Jesus.



We should live with that same faith – no matter what happens, I will trust and follow Jesus!

PRIMARY GRADES ACTIVITY
COLOR the picture and TRACE the words:



God helped Paul and Silas.
God will always help me.

UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY

Write about the things that the Philippian jailer saw and heard.

1. What did Paul and Silas do when the fortune teller girl followed around shouting? Were they mean to her?

2. Think about this: Ancient Roman prisons were terrible places. They were dark and damp, especially deep underground in the inner part where Paul and Silas were put.

How did Paul and Silas react when they were beaten and thrown deep into the prison?



Does this teach you what to do if you are scared or in a bad situation?

3. Why do you think all the prisoners stayed in their cells when the earthquake released their chains?

4. Why do you think the jailer asked, "What must I do be saved?" Was he just talking about saving his physical life so that he wouldn't be killed for letting the prisoners escape?


