



THE ADVENTURES OF PAUL

Paul & Silas Prison Break

Supplies Needed: Bucket of water, a small item that floats, a small item that sinks, a pitcher of water



TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS

Read Acts 16:25-34 together. Read it to the children or have them take turns reading. (See student handout)

Say, “Paul and Silas were preaching in the city of Philippi when they were arrested. The people beat them and the city officials threw them in prison. Even though they were hurt and locked up in the inner prison, they prayed and sang worship songs in the middle of the night. The power of God shook the jail and everyone’s chains fell off! The jailer was afraid, but Paul and Silas told him about Jesus, and he became a believer. He took them to his house and washed their wounds, then His whole house was baptized that very night. When you choose to worship God during the dark times of your life, His power shakes the things that hold you! Let’s discuss some more interesting points about this story.”



Read the “Did You Know?” points together. Read it to the children or have them take turns. Help the children look up the Scriptures mentioned. For added fun, have them say “amen!” when they find it. (See student handout)

Say, “Paul and Silas had their feet locked in stocks, but the jailer was the real one in prison. When the prison doors opened, he was ready to kill himself to avoid the death penalty for losing the prisoners. He was imprisoned by his own sin. Paul and Silas helped him find true freedom in Christ. Many people who hurt us are just prisoners of their own sin, and they need Jesus. This is why Jesus told us to bless those who curse us and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44).”

OBJECT LESSON

Hope that Never Sinks

* Items: Bucket of water, a small item that floats, a small item that sinks, a pitcher of water

Place the empty bucket on the floor in front of the audience, so that everyone can see into it. Place the objects in the bucket. **Say,** “Paul and Silas made a choice to worship God in a difficult situation, and there’s a lot we can learn from them. These objects in the bucket represent an important choice you have to make. When you follow Jesus, I can guarantee that eventually, you will have difficulties, like Paul and Silas.” Pour water from the pitcher into the bucket, just enough for the one item to float.

Say, “Persecution and hardships can hit us very suddenly, like this water hitting those objects, and we can choose to let them sink us, or to do what Paul and Silas did and raise our souls up in prayer and worship to the Lord.” Pour more water.

Say, “When you make the choice in your heart to praise Him, every time difficulties hit you, you will rise to worship Jesus, whether things turn out well for you or not. Paul learned this important lesson many times and wrote about it later to the church in Rome. The hope of God and the love of God is greater than our suffering.”
(Read Romans 5:3-5)



GAMES



Praise Race

You can praise God through anything! Everyone can race together or one at a time if space is limited. Each player must be tied around their ankles and wrists. Then, as they hop around a predetermined course, each racer must sing a praise song. Choose as a group before what praise song everyone should sing. If singing stops at any point, the player must start over. First across the finish line or fastest time wins.

**** Optional Memory Verse Game ****

Hot Potato- Luke 6:28

Have students sit in a circle. Pass a “hot potato” around the circle, which can be a bean bag, ball of paper or any small object. Play the memory passage song. When the music stops, the person holding the “hot potato” must say the first word of the verse. The music starts again and the game continues. The next person holding the potato when the music stops must say the first two words. This continues until the entire passage is recited.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1

Why were Paul and Silas put in jail?

2

Who was listening to Paul and Silas worship in jail? (Acts 16:25)

3

How do you normally react to suffering or difficulties? What have you learned from Paul and Silas?