

Week of November 29

Bible Story: Paul and Silas in Prison (Acts 16:16-40)

BIG Idea: The good news of Jesus is for all people, so we should always be ready to share why we believe.

Bible Story Video: https://youtu.be/5t_3BuseTS0

THE BIG BIBLE STORY

In the Bible, in the book of Acts, Paul learned about the best news ever—the news that Jesus is God’s Son. Paul was so excited about the news that he wanted to tell everyone about it, even if it got him in big trouble. And by big trouble, I mean BIG trouble (*illustrate with arms*). That might sound a little bonkers to you, but that’s how important it was to Paul to tell everyone about the good news of Jesus’ love.

Paul and his buddy Silas traveled all over telling people how to be saved from their sins. (*Point to one side of room. Prompt your child to walk there and say, “Jesus died for you.”*) They traveled this way to tell people that Jesus died for them. (*Point to other side of the room and repeat.*) They traveled that way to tell people that Jesus died for them. A lot of people were happy to hear the news, but not everyone. One day, they were grabbed and taken to the town’s judges. An angry crowd gathered around Paul and Silas. Umm—I’m going to need you to act like an angry crowd. When I say “angry crowd,” I want you to look angry and say “grrr.” Give it a try!

The angry crowd (*child says “grrr”*) joined in the attack on Paul and Silas. The angry crowd (*child says “grrr”*) demanded they be punished for teaching these new things about Jesus. So the judges ordered that Paul and Silas be whipped and then put into chains in the deepest part of the prison.

At around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns in their jail cell. Everyone in the jail listened to them. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake that shook the entire prison and everyone in it. It was so powerful that the prison doors flew open and the chains shook free from the prisoner’s legs.

When the prison guard felt the earthquake, he woke up and ran to the prison cells. When he saw that the doors were open, he freaked out. He was sure that all of the prisoners had escaped. But just when he thought his life was over, he heard a voice calling out. It was Paul! He yelled to the guard that everyone was still there! The guard was so relieved. He immediately fell to his knees and asked Paul and Silas how he could be saved from his sin.

Do you think Paul and Silas were ready to tell the guard how to be saved? (*child responds.*) Of course they were—they were always ready! Let’s see what they said to the guard. (*Open your Bible to Acts 16:31–32.*) When the guard asked how to be saved, (*begin reading*) “They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved.’ They spoke the word of the Lord to him. They also spoke to all the others in his house.” (*Close Bible.*)

On that day, the guard and his entire family were filled with joy—they all became believers in God and were baptized that night! The next morning, Paul and Silas were released from jail. Nothing could stop them from telling others about Jesus!

BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

- What do you think Paul and Silas told the guard about Jesus?
- How much do you think Paul loved Jesus?

BIG BIBLE STORY ACTIVITIES

Journal: If someone asked you how to be with God forever, what would you say?

Art: Imagine you were telling your friend about the good news of Jesus. Practice drawing the picture you learned from the lesson. Imagine what you would say while drawing it.