

Paul and Silas Sing in Prison

Lesson 8



Scripture: Acts 16:16-34













Bible Memory: 1 Peter 3:15

Focus: ♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Do you choose to worship God even during difficult times in your life? For Paul and Silas, worshipping God was a natural choice—even while imprisoned! Their fellow prisoners noticed their testimony and benefited from their example. Glorify the Lord, and let others hear or observe your doing so. It might make all the difference in their lives!

Lesson 8 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help children <i>explore happy and unhappy situations.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Ups and Downs</p> <p> Option "Don't Go There!"</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • none • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • whiteboard, dry-erase markers • Bible
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help children <i>tell what happened when Paul and Silas were put into prison.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Acts 16:16-34</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory 1 Peter 3:15</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 5 Map of Paul's Travels and add-ons 4a and 7a, sheet 6 add-ons 8a–8c; <i>Teaching Picture</i> 8 • Paul and Silas Picture Strip reproducible page • <i>Resources</i> sheet 8 Unit 3 Bible Memory Poster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase markers, Bibles, reusable adhesive • construction paper, markers, scissors, glue sticks, tape • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, reusable adhesive
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children <i>name things they can do when it is hard to tell about Jesus.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step We Can Tell!</p> <p> Option Last One Standing</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • <i>Resources</i> CD • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • index cards, pen • CD player, chairs • none
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children <i>make a plan to tell about Jesus even when it is hard.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Planning Ahead</p> <p> Option Tell About Jesus Mouths</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> pp. 23 and 24 and stickers • none • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 8, <i>Activities</i> p. 31 Unit 3 Bible Memory Poster and stickers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors, colored pencils • red apples, mini marshmallows, paper plates, napkins • none

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one of these activities to help children **explore happy and unhappy situations**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 3 page.

Quick Step Ups and Downs

Have the children gather in a circle. SAY: **I'm going to name times when it might be easy or hard to be happy. If you think it would be easy to be happy in the situation named, jump up and give a loud "yee-haw!" If it would be hard to be happy, sit down and give a soft "boohoo."** Have kids practice the responses. Then read the following sentences, pausing between sentences for student responses. Say: **You are at your desk at school, taking a test. You are having fun on the playground. You are at the home of a friend who is sick. You are in a worship service, singing songs about God.**

ASK: **Can you name other times when it might be hard for you to be happy?** Encourage children to suggest hard times.

SAY: **We are going to learn that Paul and one of his friends were able to worship and tell about Jesus, even in a very hard situation. ♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.**

Option "Don't Go There!"

Have children gather at a whiteboard (or at tables). SAY: **Let's take turns drawing pictures of places where we don't like to go.** Draw a place on the board that you wouldn't want to go to. See whether the children can guess what you are drawing. Then let children take turns drawing places where they wouldn't want to go.

ASK: **How would you feel if you were in these places? Would you feel happy? sad? mad? afraid?** Let children respond.
Would you want to sing and tell about Jesus in these places?

SAY: **Let's hear what happened to Paul and his friend. We'll learn that ♥ we can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.**

Bible Memory 1 Peter 3:15

Ask children to name things they have to prepare or get ready for. Maybe they have to prepare for a test, an upcoming trip, or a party. Talk about what steps they take to get ready for these events. Read 1 Peter 3:15 to the class. SAY: **The Bible tells us we are to be prepared to tell others about Jesus. If we are prepared, ♥ we can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.**

Focus

♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.

Materials

(optional: pictures of various life situations)



If you have children with special needs, consider an activity adaptation. Show pictures of various life situations and have kids sort the pictures into "easy" or "hard" times to be happy.

The visual support will be helpful and the class time may start more calmly as the group moves into Explore His Word.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase markers (optional: drawing paper and markers)



Teaching Tip

Be prepared to suggest places for children to draw, such as a hospital room, a dark cave, or a jail cell.

Materials

Bible



Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **tell what happened when Paul and Silas were put into prison.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

The slave girl in today's Scripture text was not only demon-possessed, her owners were also exploiting her for human gain. The immediate obedience of the demon to come out of the girl demonstrated the authority of the name by which Paul spoke. Paul and Silas were sent to a maximum security, inner cell of the prison. Their backs were bleeding from being scourged. Their feet were fastened in stocks that prevented them from changing positions. Yet they prayed and sang praises to God. The penalty under Roman law for allowing prisoners to escape was death. That peculiar Roman code of honor is what drove the jailer to attempt suicide, preferring to die by his own hand rather than by that of a Roman soldier.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the Unit 3 Worship Time Ideas printable file on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

whiteboard; dry-erase markers; Bibles; *Resources* sheet 5 Map of Paul's Travels and add-ons 4a and 7a, sheet 6 add-ons 8a-8c; reusable adhesive (or self-adhesive magnetic strip); *Teaching Picture 8*



Before Class

Display the map (also used in unit 2) on a wall, a bulletin board, or a whiteboard. Press out the story add-ons 8a-8c. If you are using a whiteboard, put a piece of magnetic strip on the back of each add-on.

How to Say It

Philippi (Fih-lip-pie)
Silas (Sigh-luss)



Bible Exploration Acts 16:16-34

Write "Acts 16:16" on the board. Have the children turn to the table of contents in their Bibles and find Acts. Help children turn to Acts 16:16, and ask for a volunteer to read the verse.

Open your Bible to Acts 16. SAY: **Help me tell the Bible story. When I put my hand to my head, you say, "Oh no!" When I give a thumbs-up, you say, "Oh yes!"** Practice the responses. **Listen for how Paul and Silas told about Jesus.**

Paul and Silas were in the city of Philippi. Point to Philippi on the map; attach Paul 4a and Silas 7a by Philippi. **There they met a girl who told fortunes.** Attach girl 8a to map. **This girl could predict what would happen, because an evil spirit was telling her what to say.** Put hand to head; children say, "Oh no!" **She was a servant to some men, and people paid the men money to have the girl tell them what would happen in the future.**

For many days the girl followed Paul and the others who were with him. One day Paul said to the evil spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" The evil spirit obeyed and left the girl. Give a thumbs-up; children say, "Oh yes!"

But the men who owned the girl were *not* happy. Put hand to head; "Oh no!" **Without the slave girl and her ability to predict the future, their hope of making lots of money was gone. The men grabbed Paul and Silas and took them to the leaders of the city.** Put hand to head; "Oh no!"

The men who owned the girl said, "These men are making trouble in our city." Of course, that was a lie. But the leaders of the city believed the men. The leaders commanded that Paul and Silas be beaten and thrown into prison. Put hand to head; "Oh no!" Attach 8b and 8c to the map. **To make certain that they would not escape from the prison, the jailer fastened Paul's and Silas's feet between large blocks of wood called stocks. He also put Paul and Silas in chains.**

Paul and Silas probably felt awful. Their backs hurt from the beating. They couldn't walk around. Instead of complaining, Paul and Silas prayed and sang! Thumbs-up; "Oh yes!" **The time was near midnight, and the other prisoners were listening to Paul and Silas.**

Suddenly, there was an earthquake. The ground shook so hard that the doors of the prison opened. The chains that held the prisoners broke loose. Thumbs-up; “Oh yes!”

The jailer woke up. He saw the open prison doors. He knew the Roman leaders could kill him if any prisoners had escaped. The jailer was so upset that he was going to kill himself. Put hand to head; “Oh no!” Show *Teaching Picture 8*.

“Don’t harm yourself!” shouted Paul. “We are all here!” Thumbs-up; “Oh yes!” **The jailer ran to see for himself. Paul was right. None of the prisoners had escaped. The jailer fell down before Paul and Silas.**

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” the jailer asked.

Paul and Silas taught the jailer and his family about Jesus. Thumbs-up; “Oh yes!” **The jailer washed Paul’s and Silas’s wounds. Then the jailer and his family were baptized.** Thumbs-up; “Oh yes!”

After he was baptized, the jailer took Paul and Silas back to his house and served a meal to them. The jailer and his family were filled with joy because Paul and Silas had told them about Jesus. Thumbs-up; “Oh yes!”

Bible Review Activity

Before class, cut 9" x 12" sheets of construction paper into 3" x 12" strips. Each child will need two 12" strips.

ASK: **How did Paul and Silas tell about Jesus?** (They prayed and sang praises to God. They taught the jailer and his family about Jesus.)


Distribute the reproducible pages and supplies. Read the directions and let kids color and cut out the pictures. Kids can lay out the pictures and number them in story order. Then they can glue the pictures to two strips of construction paper and tape the ends of the strips together to make one long picture strip. As time permits, let kids ask each other questions about the Bible story. Or use the *Resources* CD review questions to further review the story. SAY: **We may never be put into prison for teaching about Jesus, but we can follow Paul and Silas’s example. ♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it’s hard.**

Bible Memory 1 Peter 3:15

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

Write “1 Peter 3:15” on the board. Help the children find the verse in their Bibles. Ask for a volunteer to read it. Display the Bible Memory poster. Go through the verse, stopping to let the children figure out the rebus words. When all the words have been identified, ask a volunteer to lead in saying the verse. SAY: **It is easier to tell people about Jesus when we have prepared and practiced what we will say to them. ♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it’s hard.**


Materials

copies of the Paul and Silas Picture Strip
 Art
reproducible page, construction paper, markers, scissors, glue sticks, tape (optional: *Resources* CD lesson 8 Review Questions printable file)


Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. The Paul and Silas Picture Strip activity is also provided with the lesson 8 printable files on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, *Resources* sheet 8 Unit 3 Bible Memory Poster, reusable adhesive
 Bible Memory

Optional Bible Skill Builder

 Bible Skills
Print copies of the unit 3 Optional Bible Skills Activity from the *Resources* CD. Hand out copies of the first page and have the children use a word from the word box to finish each sentence. Turn to Acts 16:25-27 in your Bible and point to the different parts of the passage as you review the sentences.

Focus

♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **name things they can do when it is hard to tell about Jesus.**

Materials

index cards (or paper),
pen



Before Class

Write on individual cards the situations to be acted out.



If you have students who struggle with role-playing, provide support by modeling the role plays, or draw simple illustrations of the scenarios. Allow students a choice to watch or act.

Materials

Resources CD track 1,
CD player, chairs



Added Fun!

The *Resources* CD Game Time Music for this quarter uses the tune “I Am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N.” Teach the words to the children and let them sing with the CD track. They will start slowly and speed up as the music continues!

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader
issue 8



Quick Step We Can Tell!

SAY: Paul and Silas were in prison, but they figured out a way to tell about Jesus. They prayed and sang. Let's act out things we could do to tell about Jesus in different situations. Have the children form three groups. (For a smaller class, kids can work in pairs.) Give each group one of the situation cards. If possible, have an adult work with each group to give ideas and help in preparing the skits. Have groups take turns presenting their skits, showing what they would do to tell about Jesus in the various situations. Situations:

- A neighbor asks why you go to Bible school. You know the neighbor does not believe in God.
- Your Sunday school class is planning to visit people who live in a nursing care facility. You think it is hard to talk to older people.
- A severe thunderstorm came up. Now you and a friend are in the basement, and the electricity has gone out. Your friend is afraid.

SAY: ♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.

Option Last One Standing

Play a game like Musical Chairs. Place chairs, facing outward, in a circle. Use one chair less than the number of children in the class. Play the Game Time Music from the CD and have children walk around the circle of chairs. Pause the music. The children should each find a chair to sit on. The child who is left standing should name a place where it might be hard to tell about Jesus. Play several rounds, and then change the response; have the children left standing name ways they could tell about Jesus. Note: If you have a large class, you may want to form two circles of chairs. Or have two fewer chairs than needed so that two children are left standing to respond each time.

SAY: We've learned that Paul and Silas told about Jesus in prison by praying and singing. We can tell about Jesus in lots of ways. ♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.

Option Story from *Weekly Bible Reader*

ASK: When are times you might need to be brave to tell about Jesus?
Encourage responses.

What are some different ways you can tell others about Jesus?
(pray, sing songs, draw pictures, talk about Jesus)

Read “Matthew Is Brave.” **SAY: Matthew prayed and asked God to help him. Then Matthew sang and told about Jesus. ♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **make a plan to tell about Jesus even when it is hard.**

Focus

♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it's hard.

Quick Step Planning Ahead

SAY: **Sometimes it is hard to tell about Jesus. When we plan ahead, telling about Jesus can be easier. Let's make booklets that will help us know what to do when it's hard to tell about Jesus.** Distribute the activity pages, stickers, and supplies. Show how to cut out and fold the booklet. Have children name songs about Jesus that they know. They can write the title of one song on page 2. Read together the Bible verse on page 3. On page 4, children can write the name of a friend who could help them tell others about Jesus.

Invite the children to bring their booklets to a closing prayer circle. SAY: ♥ **We can tell about Jesus even when it is hard, and God will be with us to help us.** Lead in a prayer, asking God to help you and the children as you tell others about His Son, Jesus.

Option Tell About Jesus Mouths



Before class, prepare the apple slices. Be sure to check for food allergies or sensitivities. Offer an alternative when possible.

SAY: **Practice often makes a hard task easier to do. Let's make a fun snack that we can use to practice telling about Jesus. ♥ We can tell about Jesus even when it is hard.** Give each child two slices of apple and several mini marshmallows on a paper plate. Show how to arrange the slices and marshmallows on the plate so they look like smiling lips with teeth in between.

As children arrange the food items, ask them to name ways and times they could tell others about Jesus. Discuss what to do in a situation when it might be hard to talk about Jesus. When everyone has finished creating a smiling mouth, enjoy the snack together. Close with a prayer that sums up what the kids have said.

Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done in class. Distribute the *Activities* page 31 Unit 3 Bible Memory Poster and stickers. Stickers are in the middle of *Early Elementary Activities*. Encourage kids to complete their posters at home by adding the stickers.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 3 page.

Materials

Activities pp. 23 and 24 and stickers, scissors, colored pencils



Materials

red apples (sliced, with peel), mini marshmallows, paper plates, napkins (optional: lemon juice or citrus-flavored soda, cream cheese, plastic knives)



Teaching Tips

Dipping apple slices in lemon juice or citrus-flavored soda can keep the apples from turning brown.

Cream cheese can be spread on the apple slices to hold the marshmallows in place.



Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

