

united kingdom

PHILIPPIAN
JAILER

the Kingdom story from creation to revelation

PHILIPPIAN JAILER

(Based on NLT)

Introduction

Saul became known as Paul in the Greek-speaking world. He grew in his relationship with Jesus, and a few years later he began travelling with companions throughout the area telling people the Good News that Jesus is the way into God's Kingdom.

Acts 16:12-15

*On one of these trips, Paul and his friend Silas went to a certain city. ... On the day of worship, they went a little way outside of the city to a riverbank where they thought people would be meeting for prayer, and they sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia ... a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to *them*, God opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She was baptised along with other members of her household, and she asked *Paul and Silas* to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in *Jesus*," she said, "come and stay at my home." And ... *they* ... agreed.*

Acts 16:16-17

*One day as *Paul and Silas* were going down to the place of prayer, they met a *slave girl* who was possessed by an evil spirit. She was a fortune-teller who earned a lot of money for her masters. She followed Paul ... shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved."*

Acts 16:18

*This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the *evil spirit* within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus ... to come out of her." And instantly it left her.*

Acts 16:19-21

*Her master's hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. "The whole city is in an uproar because of these *men*!" they shouted to the city officials. "They are teaching *the people* to do things that are against our customs."*

Acts 16:22-24

*A mob quickly formed. ... Paul and Silas ... were severely beaten and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and *chained them*.*

Acts 16:25-28

Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing ... to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

Acts 16:29-30

The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Acts 16:31-34

*They replied, "Believe in ... Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the *Good News about Jesus* with him and with all who lived in his household. ... Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptised. *The jailer fed them at his house and they rejoiced because they all believed in God.**

Acts 16:35, 40; 17:1

*The next morning the city officials *released Paul and Silas*. When Paul and Silas left the prison, they returned to the home of Lydia. There they met with the believers and encouraged them once more. Then they left *to go to another town*.*

TELLING THE STORY

Why this story?

Our life in the Kingdom isn't always full of fun – but it is always full of joy. And God can use every circumstance, no matter how desperate, for the expansion of His Kingdom.

Paul learned more about Jesus, and soon he began traveling all over the known world sharing the Good News about God's Kingdom and starting churches. On this occasion, he was travelling with his friend Silas and some others. As usual, he first found some people who worshipped God, told them about Jesus and began meeting with them. As news of this spread, the town itself was affected. The Gospel transforms lives, and sometimes that transformation is not well accepted. When a servant girl was healed, her owners were angry because they had lost their source of income. They had Paul and Silas thrown in jail. Instead of taking this persecution as a setback, Paul and Silas faced it with joy and amazing results happened. When they left town after being released, they left behind a strong group of people who continued to meet together and grow.

Key concepts to include in your story

- Paul begins travelling with some friends and spreading the news of God's Kingdom.
- In one town, they go to the place of prayer and speak to the people there. One of them, Lydia, accepts what they say and becomes a believer. They stay with her.
- A slave girl possessed by an evil spirit begins following them and bothering them. Paul tells the evil spirit to go. The owners become angry and have Paul and Silas thrown in jail.
- Paul and Silas are singing and praising God in jail. An earthquake comes and throws open the doors.
- The jailer wants to kill himself. Then he hears that everyone is still there, and he asks Paul and Silas how to be saved.
- Paul and Silas tell him, and they baptise him and his household. The jailer gives them a meal.
- Paul and Silas are released the next day. They return to Lydia's house, encourage the believers there and leave for another city.

Notes about how the story was crafted

The introduction to this story includes a short explanation about why Saul is now called Paul. The church at Antioch had originally sent out Paul and others on missionary journeys, and this particular journey was his second such missionary journey. He set off on the journey with Silas, but soon Timothy and then Luke (the author of Acts) also joined. For the purposes of this story, we have only included Paul and Silas' names. In places where the biblical text says **we** because of Luke's involvement, we have changed it to **they** so that we do not have to introduce another character into the story.

The name of the city of **Philippi** has been replaced with **a certain city** in order to keep the story simple and avoid the use of too many names.

We have replaced the unfamiliar term **Sabbath** with **day of worship** in the example story. You can also say **day of rest**.

Demon has been replaced with **evil spirit** in order to keep key terms consistent throughout the story set, and because **evil spirit** may be a more acceptable term to our audience.

Acts 16:21 references the Roman government. In the example story, references to Rome have been removed and we have simply said that Paul and Silas were accused of teaching things that went against the customs of the day. If your audience understands the historical background of the Roman occupation in 1st-century Palestine, you can mention Roman customs here.

In the biblical text, Paul and Silas shared **the Word of the Lord** with the jailer. That phrase's meaning has been unpacked and modernised to **shared the Good News about Jesus**.

In order to shorten the story we have not included Paul's announcement to the authorities that he and Silas are in fact Roman citizens and should not have been imprisoned in the first place.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Retelling the story

- As your group practices retelling this story, help them see the different scenes in this story.
 - Introduction: The last time we saw Paul, he was in his hometown after he saw Jesus. Now he is being sent out on missionary journeys ...
 - **LYDIA** – Paul and his companions at the riverbank
 - They share the message about God's Kingdom
 - Lydia's heart is open and she accepts
 - Lydia and her household are baptised
 - Paul and his companions stay at Lydia's house
 - **SLAVE GIRL** – Paul and Silas with the slave girl
 - Slave girl follows them and shouts, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They've come to tell you how to be saved."
 - Paul is exasperated and commands the evil spirit to come out of her, which it does
 - The owners of the slave girl are angry and have Paul and Silas thrown in jail
 - **JAILER** – Paul and Silas in jail
 - Singing in the night
 - Earthquake and the jailer is afraid all have escaped. He asks Paul and Silas, "What should I do to be saved?"
 - Paul and Silas tell him and baptise him and his household
 - **BACK TO LYDIA** – Paul and Silas released
 - They go back to Lydia's and encourage the believers there
 - They travel to another city

Questions for discussion

You don't have to ask all of these questions in your discussion times. These questions are discussion starters, but you will find that often, once people feel comfortable, they talk about many of these things naturally. However, these questions are helpful to keep a conversation going where needed, and they provide a logical sequence of working through the story. Even if you don't ask all the questions in a group, try to ask people what this story means for them personally. You'll find that as you continue to interact with God's Word at a deep level, God's Spirit will reveal things for your life in a wonderful way!

- What do you like about this story?
- What bothered you about this story?
- What does this story show you about God?
- What does this story show you about people?
- What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
- How will you remember this story? (*Tell it!*)
- Is there anyone you would like to tell this story to? Or anyone you would like to practice with? E.g. Your children, your best friend, your wife, your husband, a mum at the school gate, your work colleague, your neighbour. (It's true that the best

way to learn a story is to tell it. So why don't you give it a go and chat to each other next week about how you found it?)

- How does this story contribute to our understanding of the Gospel? How is this story part of the Gospel?

Questions people may have

This section can never be exhaustive. Remember that during your group discussion times, you want to focus on the above questions rather than get sidetracked by deeply academic issues. Part of the joy of experiencing and studying God's Word in this way is allowing God's Spirit to teach us and reveal His truth to us through the narrative of the individual stories, and ultimately through the narrative of the larger story line. However, we understand that sometimes people feel they need some deeper answers. Sometimes, the storyline has to speak for itself, and we have to trust it to do so. However, if your group needs some deeper answers in order to go on, here are some basics that you can discuss. If you have unresolved questions, please come and ask, and we'll help you find the answers.

- Why did Paul think he might find some worshippers of God down by the river?
 - *Paul's normal plan in a new place was to wait for the first Sabbath day and go to the Jewish synagogue to speak to the Jewish population about Jesus, the Promised King. Apparently there was no synagogue in Philippi; the establishment of a synagogue required the presence of ten men. Paul may have heard that there might be a group of Jews and/or of Jewish proselytes meeting by the river outside the town. Or he may have assumed that they would be meeting outside of the town centre because the group would have been considered a suspect foreign religion, especially in the absence of a synagogue. The river would have been a convenient place to meet so that the group could perform the ceremonial water washings easily and whenever necessary. Paul was right – he did find a group of women praying. We do not know how many of these women were actually Jewish and how many were Gentile God-fearers like Lydia, but we do know that this group was worshipping God in the best way they knew how.*
- What is significant about Lydia being a merchant of purple cloth?
 - *Lydia was from Thyatira, an area where purple dye was made from a "madder root." Purple goods were expensive and often associated with royalty, so it is most likely that Lydia was a rich businesswoman. Chances are she would have been highly respected in the community. Her home was a great place for the first church in Philippi to meet!*
- Why is Paul so concerned about what the slave girl is saying? Isn't she saying the truth anyway?
 - *Technically, the girl was speaking truth, but instead of giving Paul and Silas good, unsolicited advertisement, she was really creating confusion. "The Most High God" was used by the Greeks also, and was often used to refer to Zeus. "The way of salvation" or "how to be saved" was equally confusing in a Greek-speaking world; the idea of "saving" encompassed many scenarios for the Greeks – even the emperor proclaimed himself as a "saviour." In the end, Paul saw that what she was saying was a distraction and not nearly clear enough in the polytheistic setting around them.*
- What does it mean to command something "in the name of Jesus"?
 - *"In the name of" someone refers to the power associated with him or her. Another way to say this would be to say "I command you by the power of Jesus to come out."*
- Why did the jailer try to kill himself?
 - *Roman jailers and guards had a deeply ingrained sense of honour, duty, and discipline. They were held personally responsible for their prisoners, and when one escaped they were sometimes executed as punishment – especially if their prisoner was facing capital punishment. (See Acts 12:19) The jailer probably assumed that the prisoners had escaped and that he would be killed as punishment. He wanted to die by his own hand rather than face the dishonour of an execution.*

- What was the accusation in Acts 16:21 about? What were Paul and Silas teaching that would have been against the customs of the Philippians?
 - *Although proselytising was not completely against the law, it was definitely looked down upon. Roman citizens were allowed to practise other religions as long as it did not interfere with traditional Roman customs. In this case, the slave girl's owners were exaggerating Paul and Silas's actions. However, it would not have been difficult to gather a mob based on their statement.*
- In both Lydia's and the jailer's cases, at least some members of their households were baptised along with them. Did each of those people make a personal decision to follow Jesus?
 - *In several places in Acts it is very clear that a person must believe in Jesus, repent of their sins and turn towards God for forgiveness. In both Acts 10:44 and Acts 16:31-32 we see that the entire household heard the message about Jesus before they were baptised, implying that they had the chance to hear and accept – not that they automatically received salvation because the head of the household had. In those days, family unity was a given, and when a head of a household chose to follow a certain path, the entire household followed the path usually without question. That cultural value does not negate the fact that each person must individually choose to follow Jesus, but it does mean that members of the household probably had less hesitation in hearing and believing the truth of what the head of the household believed.*

PHILIPPIAN JAILER – for children

(Based on NLT)

Introduction

Saul became known as Paul *among people that spoke Greek*. Paul grew in his relationship with Jesus, and a few years later he began travelling with *friends* throughout the area telling people the Good News that Jesus is the way into God's Kingdom.

Acts 16:12-15

On one of these trips, Paul and his friend Silas went to a certain city. ... On the day of worship, they went a little way outside of the city to a riverbank where they thought people would be meeting for prayer, and they sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia ... a *woman whose job was to sell* expensive purple cloth. *She* worshiped God. As she listened to *them*, God opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She was baptised along with other members of her *house*, and she asked *Paul and Silas* to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in *Jesus*," she said, "come and stay at my home." And ... *they* ... agreed.

Acts 16:16-17

One day as *Paul and Silas* were going down to the place of prayer, *they* met a *slave girl who had an evil spirit living in her*. She was a *girl who told people about the future, and she* earned a lot of money for her *owners*. She followed Paul ... shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved."

Acts 16:18

This went on day after day until Paul got so *bothered by it* that he turned and said to the *evil spirit* within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus ... to come out of her." And instantly it left her.

Acts 16:19-21

Her *owners knew they couldn't use the slave girl to make money anymore*, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the *city rulers in* the marketplace. "*These men are making trouble in our city!*" they shouted to the city *rulers*. "They are teaching the people to do things that are against our *beliefs*."

Acts 16:22-24

A mob quickly formed. ... Paul and Silas ... were ... beaten and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them *far inside the jail* and *chained them*.

Acts 16:25-28

Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing ... to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a *strong* earthquake, and the prison was shaken *all the way to the bottom stones*. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He *thought* the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

Acts 16:29-30

The jailer called for lights and ran *inside* and fell down *shaking with fear* before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "*Men*, what must I do to be saved?"

Acts 16:31-34

They replied, "Believe in ... Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your *house*." And they shared the *Good News about Jesus* with him and with all who lived in his *house*. ... Then he and everyone in his *house* were immediately baptised. *The jailer fed them at his house and they were very happy* because they all believed in God.

Acts 16:35, 40; 17:1

The next morning the city *rulers let Paul and Silas go free*. When Paul and Silas left the prison, they returned to the home of Lydia. There they met with the believers and encouraged them once more. Then they left *to go to another town*.

TELLING THE STORY – for children

Key concepts to include in your story

The story will need to be simplified at varying levels based on the age group of the children you are teaching. This means that many of the details in the story will need to be summarized. However, you should include the following concepts in your story.

- Paul begins travelling with some friends and spreading the news of God's Kingdom.
- In one town, they go to the place of prayer and speak to the people there. One of them, Lydia, accepts what they say and becomes a believer. They stay with her.
- A slave girl possessed by an evil spirit begins following them and bothering them. Paul tells the evil spirit to go. The owners become angry and have Paul and Silas thrown in jail.
- Paul and Silas are singing and praising God in jail. An earthquake comes and throws open the doors.
- The jailer wants to kill himself. Then he hears that everyone is still there, and he asks Paul and Silas how to be saved.
- Paul and Silas tell him, and they baptise him and his household. The jailer gives them a meal.
- Paul and Silas are released the next day. They return to Lydia's house, encourage the believers there and leave for another city.

Example of a simplified version of the story for children

Saul became known as Paul around people that spoke Greek. Paul grew in his relationship with Jesus, and a few years later he began travelling with friends throughout the area – telling people the Good News that Jesus is the way into God's Kingdom. On one of these trips, Paul and his friend Silas went to a certain city. On the day of worship, they went to a river outside the city where people were meeting for prayer. Paul and Silas sat down to speak with some of the women that were there, and one of them was named Lydia. Her job was to sell expensive purple cloth, and she worshipped God. As Lydia listened to Paul and Silas, God opened her heart and she believed what they were saying. Lydia and other people that lived in her house were baptised. Then Lydia asked Paul and Silas to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in Jesus," she said, "come and stay at my house." And they agreed. Then one day when Paul and Silas were going down to the place of prayer, they met a slave girl who had an evil spirit living inside her. She was a girl who told people about the future, and she earned a lot of money for her owners. The slave girl followed Paul and Silas as she shouted, "These men serve the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved." This went on day after day until it bothered Paul so much that he turned and spoke. He said to the evil spirit inside her, "I command you in the name of Jesus to come out of her." And immediately the evil spirit left her. The slave girl's owners knew they couldn't use her to make money anymore, and they were very angry. They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the city rulers. "These men are making trouble in our city!" they shouted. "They are teaching people to do things that are against our beliefs." A big group of angry people – a mob – got together. Paul and Silas were beaten and then thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So he put them far inside the jail and chained them. Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly there was a strong earthquake, and the prison was shaken all over. All the doors immediately flew open, and all the prisoners' chains fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He thought the prisoners had escaped, so he pulled out his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!" The jailer told someone to bring a light, and he ran inside the jail. He was shaking with fear and fell down in front of Paul and Silas. The jailer brought them outside and asked them, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas told him, "Believe in Jesus and you will be saved – along with everyone in your house." They shared the Good News about Jesus with the jailer and with everyone who lived in his house. Then they were all immediately baptised. The jailer gave Paul and Silas a meal, and the jailer's family was very happy because they all believed in God. The next morning, the rulers of the city let Paul and Silas go free. When they left the prison, they returned to Lydia's house. While there, they met with the believers and encouraged them some more. Then Paul and Silas left to go to another town.

Retelling the story

The following activities can be used to vary your storying sessions with the children and keep the action fresh and exciting. They also help the children learn the stories in different ways. You'll find as children journey through this story set with you, they become more and more capable of learning even complicated stories quickly and well. Varying activities and keeping it fun helps the children write the stories on their heart so that they can pull them out of their toolbox whenever a situation comes up where they can use them!

- **Charades** – Have participants choose one line from the story and use actions to convey that line to the rest of the group. The child that guesses correctly goes next.
- **Skit** – Assign parts to groups and have them act out the story as you or a participant narrates. This can be done as a group or in smaller teams. If done in teams, you may choose to have each team act out the whole story, or assign sections and have them perform the skits in chronological order one after the other.
- **Song** – This activity seems to work best in small groups of older and more advanced students. If you believe your group would enjoy this activity, have them write and perform a song based on a story or a portion of a story. To make this task easier, have each group choose a song melody as their foundation and change the lyrics as needed, as opposed to starting from scratch.
- **Sign Language** – This is a great way to incorporate kinaesthetic learning into storying. Work with the participants to develop "sign language" for keywords in the story. This will help them to remember the order and progression of the story. This activity may also be done as a group or in smaller teams. If done in teams, have a participant from each team narrate as the group demonstrates their motions. The more creative, the more likely they are to remember it! Sign language is a good activity if younger and more inexperienced storytellers are part of the group.
- **Perspective Shift** – This creative and critical thinking activity works best later in the story set. Assign groups of children different characters in the story. They then adjust the story they have learned to the perspective of that character. For example, they could tell the Fall story from Adam and Eve's perspectives or the Abraham story from Abraham's perspective.
- **Memory** – The storyteller starts this activity by saying the first line of the story. The story then moves around the circle as each participant tells a line. An alternate method is to go back and forth between partners as they tell the story to each other.
- **Popcorn** – The storyteller also starts this activity. As children remember, they raise their hand. When ready, the storyteller yells "pop" and the name of someone with their hand raised. That person will then jump in until more hands are raised and they shout "pop" to pass the story to another child. You will likely need to demonstrate how this works.
- **Interview** – Children are assigned different characters. A child designated as "interviewer" asks the characters questions about what happened in the story and the character answers according to his or her role. For example, the interviewer could ask Adam about what he witnessed or the actions he took in the garden when he ate the fruit, and Adam would give his answer.
- **Action words** – Before telling the story, the storyteller gives instructions associated with particular words. Children listen for those words in the story, and must do appropriate action when heard. For example, the storyteller would tell the participants to wiggle their arm like a snake anytime they hear the word "snake." There should be multiple words associated with actions in the story. This activity also works well with a younger audience.

Children's Teaching Materials

Sunday mornings will begin in the warehouse with a joint children's worship time led by a youth worship band followed by a storying session with the roving storyteller. Then groups will disperse to their usual meeting locations for the age-appropriate teaching of the story and activities that reinforce that story's message.

Sparks

10:30	Retell the story using a Storybook Bible.	Resources Needed: • Storybook Bible • Rice cakes
	Snack – rice cakes	
10:45	Craft options: ~ Make paper chains. Then wrap the paper chains around the leader and let him/her break loose. ~ Make bottle shakers (instruments) using empty plastic bottles, beans/paperclips to fill them and stickers to decorate.	• Strips of paper • Staples or sellotape • Empty plastic bottles • Beans or paperclips • Stickers
11:15	Music: ~ Sing praise and worship songs using the instruments made during the craft time.	• Music • Instruments (from craft)
11:20	Play	

Little Flames

10:30	Begin with prayer. (Don't repeat a specific prayer, but follow the general idea of the prayer below.) ~ Say "Hi" to God, tell Him we're glad He's there with us and ask Him to help us see Him, hear Him and know Him. Invite Him into everything we'll be doing today. Keep today's focus in mind: "I should praise Jesus even when bad things happen."	Resources Needed:
10:35	Craft options: ~ Make paper chains. ~ Make musical instruments: • Guitar (from tissue box and elastic bands) • Drum (from flower pot, paper to cover it and glue) • Rain stick (from kitchen roll, foil inside as spiral and tissue paper to decorate) • Shakers (from plastic cups, masking tape and filled with chick peas or beans)	• Strips of paper • Sellotape & Masking tape • Tissue box • Elastic bands • Flower pot • Paper • Glue • Kitchen roll • Foil • Tissue paper • Plastic cups • Chick peas or beans • Stickers (to decorate)

10:45	Retell the story (using the crafts made above as visuals) as it's acted out ~ Turn the small room into a 'jail.' ~ Use chains and instruments made during the earlier craft.	• Crafts (from above) • Items to turn a small room into a jail
10:50	"Knowledge Harvest" conversation: (use similar questions as below) ~ What did the Greek-speaking people call Saul? ~ What did Paul teach people while he was travelling with friends? ~ Where did Paul and Silas meet Lydia? ~ Who was Lydia? ~ What did Lydia do when Paul and Silas taught her about Jesus? ~ What did Lydia want Paul and Silas to do? ~ Who followed Paul and Silas as they walked around the city? ~ What did the slave girl say as she followed the men? ~ What did Paul say to the evil spirit inside of the slave girl? ~ Why did the slave girl's owners become angry? What did they do? ~ What happened to Paul and Silas? ~ What was the jailer ordered to do? ~ What happened around midnight? ~ What were Paul and Silas doing before the earthquake started? ~ Why was the jailer going to kill himself? Why did he stop? ~ What question did the jailer ask Paul and Silas? What answer was he given? ~ Why was everyone in the jailer's family happy? ~ What did Paul and Silas do when they were set free?	
11:00	Biscuit break – Use this relatively calm opportunity for a little chat and prayer time. Discussion: "What are some ways that you can praise Jesus even when bad things happen?"	• Biscuits
11:05	Popcorn Prayer ~ Have simple prayers, popcorn style: "Thank you, Jesus, for _____!"	
11:10	Music: ~ Sing praise and worship songs ("God is So Good," "Now I am Free," etc) ~ Use the instruments from the earlier craft	• Music • Instruments (from the earlier craft)
11:15	Learn the words of the week: "I should praise Jesus even when bad things happen." Use visuals for the kids to help them learn the words.	• Visuals to help learn the phrase
11:20	Prayer: Thank God choosing us and teaching us about Jesus.	
11:25	Game: Keys of the Kingdom ~ Children should gather in a circle. One child is blindfolded in the middle with keys behind them. A child from the circle has to creep around to get the keys without being noticed.	• Blindfold • Keys

11:30 If there is any remaining time (or the previous activities finish early), allow the children to freely choose to do whatever they want to do. Play story-relevant music in the background. Leaders should engage with the children during this time: celebrate them, pray for them, love them.



~ Craft: Colour a picture of Paul and Silas. Then thread wool through holes in the picture to "put them in jail." (The template can be found at the end of this material.)

- Templates of Paul and Silas
- Crayons
- Wool
- Hole punch
- Story-oriented toys
- Play-dough
- Colouring sheets
- Blank paper

- ~ Play with story-oriented toys
- ~ Role play
- ~ Play-dough creations
- ~ Colouring station

Blaze

09:45 As children arrive before worship, have them make purple paper chains. Collect the chains from the children before worship begins at 10:00. Half of these will be used in the Blaze class, and half of them in the TNT class.

Resources Needed:

- Purple strips of paper
- Staples or tape

10:30 Share the rules, review last week's story and retell today's story

10:35 Activity to learn the story:
~ Split the kids into groups and have each group act out the story and then perform for the other group(s). They can use the purple chains as props in the story.

- Use the purple chains made before worship

10:45 Split into small groups for the discussion questions

Discuss the questions:

- ~ What do you like about this story?
- ~ What bothered you about this story?
- ~ What does this story show you about God?
- ~ What does this story show you about people?
- ~ What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
- ~ How will you remember this story? *Tell it!*
- ~ Who will you tell this story to?

Pray for who they want to share the story with

11:05 Game:
~ Have the children stand in a circle. Someone in the middle is blindfolded. A leader taps someone in the circle on the shoulder, and that person sings (in an altered voice; funny voices allowed!) a line from a worship song. The blindfolded person tries to guess who sang. Let the children take turns being in the middle.

- Blindfold

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| 11:15 Craft: Friendship bracelets
~ Make friendship bracelets using purple wool (to represent Lydia). Tell the children that they should share the story with anyone who they give the bracelet to.
~ Here is a good link to find instructions on making friendship bracelets (with pictures): http://www.instructables.com/id/how-to-make-a-friendship-bracelet-1/?ALLSTEPS . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purple wool • Safety pins • Scissors • Instructions |
| 11:30 Circle Time: praying, reflection, responses and offering
~ Activity pages (if needed) for extra time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering box • Activity pages |

TNT

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| 09:45 As children arrive before worship, have them make purple paper chains. Collect the chains from the children before worship begins at 10:00. Half of these will be used in the Blaze class, and half of them in the TNT class. | Resources Needed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purple strips of paper • Staples or tape |
| 10:30 Share the rules, review last week's story and retell today's story | |
| 10:35 Activity to learn the story:
~ Split the kids into groups and have each group act out the story and then perform for the other group(s). They can use the purple chains as props in the story. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the purple chains made before worship |
| 10:45 Split into small groups for the discussion questions
Discuss the questions:
~ What do you like about this story?
~ What bothered you about this story?
~ What does this story show you about God?
~ What does this story show you about people?
~ What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
~ How will you remember this story? <i>Tell it!</i>
~ Who will you tell this story to?

Pray for who they want to share the story with | |
| 11:05 Game:
~ Have the children stand in a circle. Someone in the middle is blindfolded. A leader taps someone in the circle on the shoulder, and that person sings (in an altered voice; funny voices allowed!) a line from a worship song. The blindfolded person tries to guess who sang. Let the children take turns being in the middle. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blindfold |
| 11:15 Craft: Friendship bracelets
~ Make friendship bracelets using purple wool (to represent Lydia). Tell the children that they should share the story with anyone who they give the bracelet to.
~ Here is a good link to find instructions on making friendship bracelets (with pictures): http://www.instructables.com/id/how-to-make-a-friendship-bracelet-1/?ALLSTEPS . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purple wool • Safety pins • Scissors • Instructions |
| 11:30 Circle Time: praying, reflection, responses and offering
~ Activity pages (if needed) for extra time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering box • Activity pages |

