

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K&K)

Lesson #94

DATE:

SUBJECT: Paul and Silas in Prison

SCRIPTURE: Acts 16:19-34

AIM: To show the children that they can sing to God wherever they are.

MEMORY VERSES: Psalm 98:1a “O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvelous things...”

CONTENT: What does it mean to be put in prison? Why are people put in prison? Prisons long ago were much worse than prisons today. Long ago prisons were very dark, damp, and cold. The doors are locked so that the prisoners inside can’t get out, even if they want to.

Has there ever been anyone put in prison for obeying God? Today we are going to learn about two men who were.

Do you remember how Saul learned that Jesus is God’s Son? Saul then loved Jesus and wanted to tell what great things God had done. Later Saul became known as Paul. Paul became a missionary and told people about God. He traveled with his friend, Silas.

Some men made many people believe the missionary were doing bad things instead of doing good. At last, these men dragged Paul and Silas before the men who ruled the city. Paul and Silas were beaten and then thrown into prison.

The man in charge of the prison is called a jailer. He put Paul and Silas into the dirtiest, darkest part of the prison. He put their feet through holes in a board so they could not move or sit very well. Then he closed the heavy door and carefully locked it.

Paul and Silas were badly hurt. Their backs were bleeding. They may have said to each other, “We were preaching about Jesus. We were doing the right thing. We know God is pleased with us. He is with us even here in prison.”

Paul and Silas couldn’t sleep. Their backs hurt so much. They couldn’t lie down, for the boards and chains held them. But do you know what they could do? They prayed to God. They could even sing about Jesus.

The other prisoners listened to their singing. “What?” they must have said. “Who can be happy enough to sing in prison? Those men are praising God! They are singing to God!” It was the middle of the night, and only the prisoners were awake. The jailer was asleep.

Suddenly the whole prison shook! It was an earthquake. The doors opened wide! The heavy iron chains fell off every prisoner! The jailer woke up suddenly. He saw at once the prison doors were open. He thought his prisoners had all run away and he would be punished. He was afraid. But Paul called out. “We are all here.” The jailer was glad to hear that!

With a lantern in his hand to light the way, he ran into the dark part of the prison where Paul and Silas were. They had not tried to run away. The jailer fell down on his knees before them. He said, "Tell me about your God. What must I do to have my sins forgiven?"

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ," Paul said. "And if your family believes on the Lord, they will be forgiven too."

The jailer brought the missionaries out of the prison and took them to his own home. There he washed their cuts. He gave them a good supper.

Paul and Silas spoke to the entire jailer's family. They all were very happy. "We believe Jesus is the Son of God," the family said, "We love Him and want to obey Him." Then, together with the missionaries, they thanked God for the Lord Jesus.

Taken from Scripture Press. 4s & 5s Teaching Guide March-May 1991 Volume 53, No. 3