

July 5 – A Philippian Jailer (Paul and Silas)

Sunday School Bible Reading: Acts 16:16-40

Commentary from Megan

We're in the CPH curriculum this week and probably next week as we finish out unit 3. This unit was meant to be a survey of some New Testament Bible Lessons. These lessons are from the early Church.

Resources in this PDF

Lesson 13 Opening

Lesson 13 Activity Page

Note about the activity page: Guide the children to recall that the jailer was afraid that he would be killed because he thought his prisoners had escaped in the earthquake. Talk together about fears your children face. Encourage them to name these fears or draw small pictures of them in the circles on the page. The vertical and horizontal lines drawn through the circles will form a cross. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has rescued us from sin, death, and the devil. Remind the children that as baptized children of God, we belong to Jesus forever. In His Word, He promises that nothing can separate us from Him (Romans 8:38–39).

5 Paul and Silas Activity Pages

Scripture Snapshot

In Philippi, Paul and Silas cast the spirit of divination from a slave girl, but her angered owner has the two thrown into prison. Around midnight, Paul and Silas are praying and singing to God when suddenly an earthquake shakes the prison. The jailer, thinking his prisoners have escaped, prepares to take his own life. Paul and Silas interrupt his plan as they share the Gospel with him and his whole family, who Paul then baptizes.

Discussion Ideas

How did the Holy Spirit use Paul and Silas's actions as a witness to the prisoners and the jailer?

Think about how you treated others today. What kind of witness did your words and actions give about your faith? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your words and actions, so they reflect your hope and trust in Jesus.

Luke wrote the Book of Acts and was with Paul, Silas, and Timothy on this mission trip.

God can take bad situations and work good through them. Paul and Silas shared the love of God through their singing and praising Him, even in their terrible situation in jail. In the end, the Philippian jailer came to faith and was baptized.

Even though the demon-possessed girl was declaring Jesus as Lord, this was not the kind of witness that Paul wanted for our Lord. The devil used this girl to try to distract from the real message of the Gospel. As usual, it didn't work.

The jailer, a person who normally kept people in chains, was the one who was set free. Paul spared his earthly life and also gave him eternal life through Baptism into Jesus.

Paul and Silas are falsely accused and imprisoned, just as Jesus was. Following Jesus is not always easy, but we know that by following Jesus, no matter how hard the path, we will live with Him in heaven at our journey's end.

The city of Philippi was very far from Paul's home and was full of people who had very different backgrounds from Paul and his missionary team. How can we share the good news of the Gospel with those around us, even if they are very different from us?

The jailer experienced a life-changing event in this narrative. How do you think the jailer's life was different after his life was spared and he and his family were baptized? How is our life different because we are baptized?

Ask students to tell you what they thought was the most amazing part of this story: casting out the demon, the earthquake, the chains coming off Paul and Silas, the prisoners staying in jail, the jailer coming to faith and being baptized, or something else?

Other Ideas & Resources

Paul and Silas sang hymns while they were in prison. Have each member of your family choose a song or hymn to sing or play.

Various earthquakes are recorded in the Bible. Read or listen to Exodus 19:18; 1 Samuel 14:15; 1 Kings 19:11; Matthew 27:51–54; or Matthew 28:2. What is the same and what is different in these accounts? For information about modern earthquakes, check out the United States Geological Survey online.

Songs

[This Little Light of Mine](#) – with actions

[Power in Your Word](#) – with actions

[Let's Go, Go, Go!](#)

[Jesus Loves Me](#) – with lyrics and actions

[I was Baptized \(Happy Day\)](#)

[God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It](#) with lyrics

Even in difficult times, God's Word and His promises give us a peace that's much better than any kind of peace we can get on our own. Sometimes we call that the **peace that passes all understanding**. [I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy](#)

Prayers

Dear Jesus, thank You for the missionary work of Paul and Silas. Thank You for all the missionaries that have shared the love of Jesus over the years. Help us to share the message of the Gospel wherever we are. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

Thank You, Jesus, for being with us in good times and bad times. Help us share the joy we have in knowing You as our Savior with others. Amen.

LESSON 13 OPENING

A SOLDIER BELIEVES: A PHILIPPIAN JAILER

This document (*hold up passport*) has a very important function. Does anyone know what this document is? *Allow children to answer.* This is a passport. A passport is a legal document that is issued by the government of the country of which a person is a citizen. The document serves as a means of identification indicating who a person is and to what country they belong. In order for a person to enter a country that is not their own or to return to their own country, a passport is necessary. Citizenship is very important.

When a person is out of their own country and something bad happens to them, citizenship becomes even more important. It is one's home country that must come to the aid of its citizen. A person who is a citizen of a particular country may have special rights that become very important in such a situation. These rights and the person's citizenship may just be what saves them.

In his letter to the Church at Philippi, the apostle Paul talks about heavenly citizenship. We are all citizens of this world and of a country in it as we live out our lives. Yet, our real citizenship is in our true home. As the children of God, we are citizens of heaven. God has made us to be His own people. He has redeemed us from the sin that has imprisoned us. He has released us from bondage in the foreign land of sin's domain. As heavenly citizens, our lives are in Christ. On the Last Day, He will bring us to be with Him where He is. He will bring us into the place of our true citizenship: eternal life in heaven.

In today's Bible lesson, we will learn about two men by the names of Paul and Silas. These men became imprisoned while they were traveling. You will find out why they were imprisoned and how they were treated in prison. During the time that they were in prison, a rather dramatic event took place. Study the lesson carefully to see if anyone's citizenship changed during the time Paul and Silas were in prison. You will also want to pay careful attention to why Paul and Silas's citizenship was important.

Our citizenship is very important to us. Our citizenship is one aspect of who we are as a person. It defines some aspect of our life. Yet, our citizenship is but a temporary reality. We are not permanent citizens of this world. Our true citizenship in Christ is far more important. This citizenship defines us as those who have been purchased and freed from sin. This citizenship is our eternal citizenship. All of our daily lives are defined as we live them out as people away from our true home, rejoicing in our heavenly citizenship.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, our King, thank You for making us to be citizens of heaven. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Acts 16:16–40

BIBLE TRUTH

God rescues us from fear and gives us new life through His Word.

FAITH FOCUS

The Blessings of Baptism

LAW & GOSPEL

Without faith in Christ, we live in fear of punishment and death.

Our fear turns to joy when salvation in Jesus is proclaimed to us and we receive the blessings of Baptism by faith.

BIBLE VERSE

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.
Acts 2:38

VISUAL HELPS

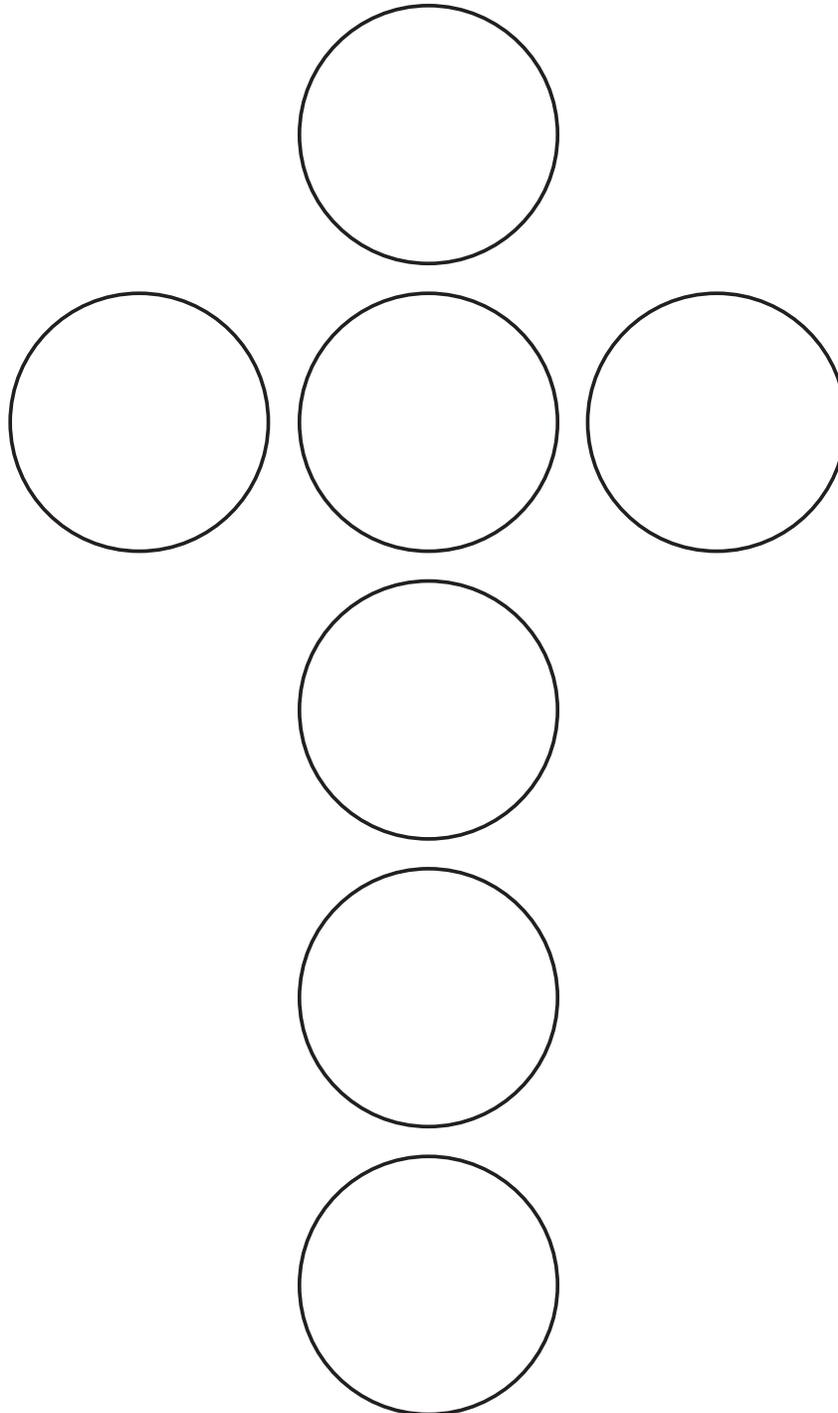
Passport (does not have to be real)

A SOLDIER BELIEVES—A PHILIPPIAN JAILER

Unit 3, Lesson 13

From Fear to Joy

Directions: In the top circle, draw a picture or write a few words that tell why the jailer in Philippi was afraid. In the other circles, draw pictures or write a few words to describe things people your age fear.



Now draw a vertical line through the five circles from the top to the bottom. Then draw a horizontal line through the three circles from the left side to the right side. What shape have you made?

Paul and Silas told the jailer, **“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household”** (Acts 16:31). As baptized children of God, why do we have nothing to fear?

God Took Care of Paul and Silas Puzzle

Cut the puzzle apart on the white lines, mix the pieces up, and put the picture back together.



Paul and Silas Match Game

Print two sets of the cards. Cut out the cards along the black lines. Mix up the cards and lay them out face down in rows. Turn over any two cards at a time. If the pictures match, remove them from the table. This counts as one set. If you make a match, you may take another turn. If they do not match, turn them back over and let the next person try. The person with the most sets wins!



Paul and Silas Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.



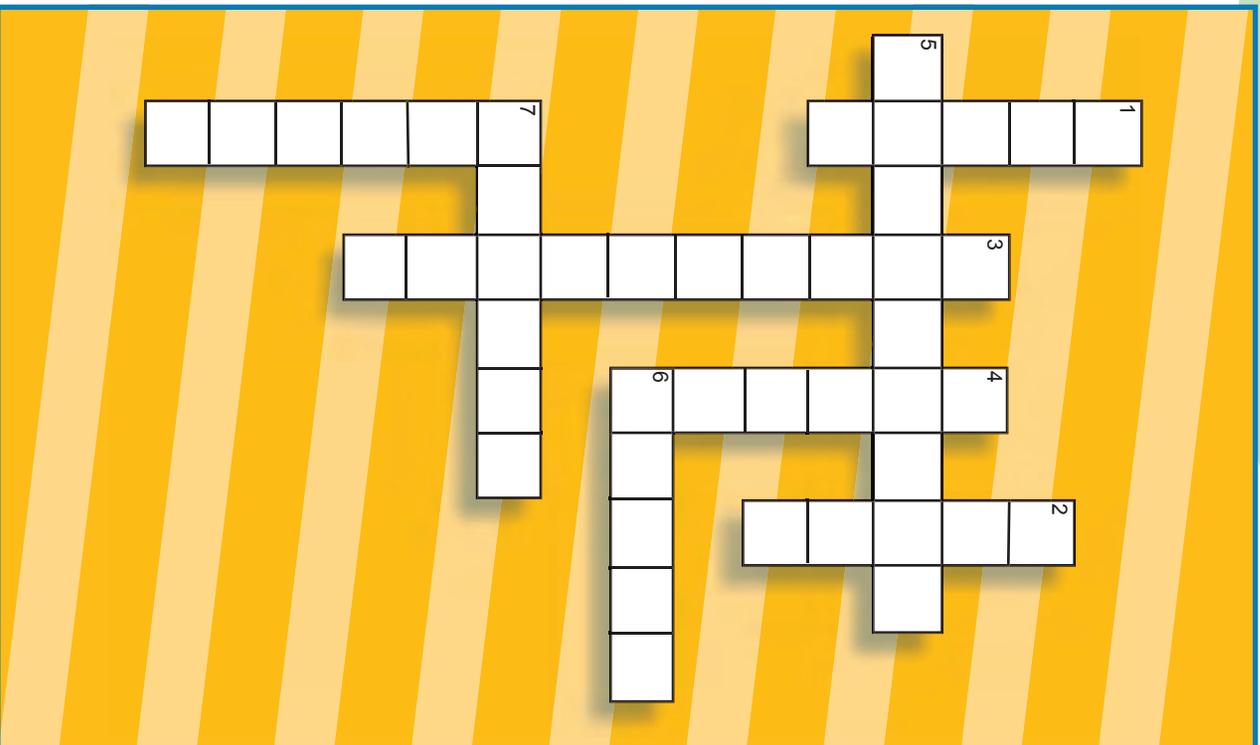
Paul and Silas in Prison Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Paul and Silas were traveling and _____ God's Word.
- He traveled with Paul.
- Paul and Silas _____ during the night.

DOWN

- Officer who watches prisoners
- During the night, they sang these.
- The ground shakes during this.
- While they were being held, Paul and Silas wore these.
- Paul and Silas were put in _____.



Paul and Silas in Prison: Coded Words

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

Code key

A 1	H 8	O 15	V 22
B 2	I 9	P 16	W 23
C 3	J 10	Q 17	X 24
D 4	K 11	R 18	Y 25
E 5	L 12	S 19	Z 26
F 6	M 13	T 20	
G 7	N 14	U 21	

16 1 21 12

19 9 12 1 19

16 18 9 19 15 14

5 1 18 20 8 17 21 1 11 5

3 8 1 9 14 19

16 18 1 9 19 5

What Paul and Silas told the guard:

23 5 1 18 5 8 5 18 5