

Lesson on Paul and Silas in Prison

Scripture: Acts 16:16-40

Big Idea: God can use our difficult situations for good.

Memorize: But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. – Matthew 6:33

Opening Questions:

Do you think that a bad situation can be used for good? Can you think of any examples?

Share: Sometimes, our situation might seem bad. Think about all that has been going in our world the last few months. In many ways it seems really bad. But sometimes, if we wait, we soon discover that good can things can come out of bad situations. Imagine, on a Saturday morning, your father tells you that instead of hanging out at home and watching tv you are going to go and help a friend from church who is moving. How might you feel when you receive that news? What is the good that could come out of that experience?

In today's story, we'll see how God did something incredible through the faith of Paul and his friend Silas. Because they trusted God, they weren't shaken when they found themselves in a bad situation.

Watch: Slapstick Theatre (Paul and Silas in prison)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5t_3BuseTS0

Activity: Praising God in Prison

You will need: Four "prison walls" (cardboard sheet, couch cushions, etc.), a laptop or phone cued up with the worship song Waymaker. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wyotu9Twko>

Work with the students to construct a pretend prison by putting up the four walls and then having the students sit down inside as though they are Paul and Silas in prison.

Ask: How do you think Paul and Silas felt when they were placed in prison? What did Paul and Silas do when they were placed in prison? They prayed and sang songs of praise to God.

Let's do that! Play the worship song together and sing as a family while in your "prison."

Ask: Do you remember what Paul and Silas did once their prison door was opened and their chains had fallen off? They remained in their prison cell. What would you have done? We've had to stay away from our friends and even family members for a long time. There will be a day, not too far away, when we will be able to be with all the people we miss being with again. What do you think that day

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Elementary

will feel like? Who are some of the people you miss seeing? What are some of the things you miss being able to do? Spend a few minutes as a family talking about the things you miss, and reminding the kids that God knows that we feel sad about these losses. After you've done so, knock down your prison walls!

Share: God did something incredible through Paul and Silas. Even though their chains fell off, even though they probably wanted to run from prison, they remained. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine staying even though you were free?

Ask: What good things happened because Paul and Silas remained? Many people came to believe in Jesus, including the jailer and his family. What are some of the good things that have come out of our hard time of being stuck in our homes for so long?

Close in Prayer as a Family using the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.