LESSON 18



PAUL AND SILAS IN TROUBLE IN PHILIPPI

Aim: **To teach the children that, because God was with Paul and Silas, a hard time in prison became a time of great joy.**

Scripture Reading: **Acts 16:12–34**

Memory Verse: **1 Peter 4:16**
[I]f you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Make up a story about a bad day in a person's life. Suggestion: Maria got up late because it was dark and she did not wake up. That made her late for work, and so her boss was cross with her. Then she realised she had left home in such a hurry that she had not brought her lunch. And so it continued; everything went wrong.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. When Paul and his companion Silas arrived in Philippi they had a very good time at first, as people wanted to listen to the Gospel (Acts 16:13–15).
2. Then things became difficult. By the power of Jesus Christ, Paul drove an evil spirit out of a slave girl. This made her owners angry, for they had been using the evil spirit inside the girl to make money for themselves (16:16–19).
3. Paul and Silas were treated badly and put in prison (16:20–24).
4. They could have felt sorry for themselves and complained that God had not protected them, while they had only been doing his will. Instead, Paul and Silas sang songs of praise to God in their cell (16:25)!
5. **Describe the earthquake and its consequences (16:26–27).** All the doors opened and all the prisoners were free to escape. **Show Picture 18.**
6. The jailer was about to kill himself, because if the prisoners escaped he would pay for it with his life. But Paul stopped him (16:27–28).
7. The jailer realised that Paul and Silas knew the way to a life of peace and truth, so he asked, "What must I do to be saved?" They told him the good news of Jesus (16:29–31).
8. The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house and took care of them. He and his whole household accepted the Lord Jesus. Everybody was filled with joy (16:32–34).

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Our Response to the Story

The following story really happened.

A certain woman became a Christian, but her husband did not. As she followed Jesus, her husband began to hate her. One day he decided to kill her and their two children. He needed an excuse for killing her, so he decided he would say she had lost some very important keys. As he crossed the River Nile he dropped the keys in the water.

Later that day his wife bought a big fish at the market. When she cut it open she was surprised to find some keys inside. She was even more surprised when she recognised them as her husband's keys. The fish had swallowed them when he had dropped them into the river!

That evening her husband came home very drunk and ready to kill her. He shouted, "Woman, where are my keys?" When his wife handed him the keys he had dropped into the river, the man had such a fright that he became sober at once. He asked his wife's forgiveness and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

That woman had continued to be a Christian even when her husband had made her life so difficult. She had the joy of seeing her husband become a Christian, too. We should not give up when living our faith makes life difficult.
Paul and Silas kept on hoping and rejoicing even in prison.

Instil the Memory Verse



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