

Paul's Second Journey

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 16:11-34

MAIN POINT: Paul and Silas told the jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 1:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Paul was back at the church of Antioch in Syria. The church had sent out Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel to Jews and Gentiles in places like Lystra and Derbe. Then they returned to the church of Antioch. Some time passed, and Paul wanted to return to some of the cities he visited on his first journey to see how the new believers were doing.

Silas accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey. The pair traveled through Syria and Cilicia (suh LISH ih uh), encouraging believers and strengthening churches. The number of believers in the churches increased daily.

The Lord called Paul and Silas to go to Macedonia, so they

obeyed. Two major events happened while Paul was in Macedonia. First, a woman named Lydia became a believer. Paul and Silas had gone to the river to pray. They spoke to the women at the river. God opened Lydia's heart to the good news of the gospel.

Then, a jailer became a believer. This happened when Paul and Silas were thrown into prison after Paul commanded a fortune-telling spirit to come out of a slave girl. Late at night, an earthquake rocked the prison. The prisoners could have escaped, but they stayed where they were.

This was a huge relief to the jailer. Had the prisoners escaped, the jailer would have been punished. In fact, the jailer was ready to kill himself when Paul shouted, "We are all here!" The jailer asked Paul and Silas how to be saved. They told him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." The man believed and was baptized.

Lydia, the jailer, and many others were saved because they heard the gospel and believed in Jesus. Paul and Silas preached the same message to all people, no matter who they were: "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."



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The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Paul's Second Journey

Acts 16:11-34

- **Display a map:**

Show a map of Paul's missionary journeys. Trace Paul's second journey as you tell the Bible story.

- **Use sound effects:**

Play (or allow the kids to make) sound effects with different parts of the story. Consider running water for the river, a noisy crowd as Paul and Silas went to pray, and falling rocks during the earthquake.

Paul traveled to several towns with his friends, and they shared the good news about Jesus. One night, Paul saw a vision. In the vision, **God told Paul to go to Macedonia** (MASS uh DOH nih uh). God wanted Paul **to share the gospel** there.

So Paul and his friends went to Macedonia. They stopped for a few days in a city called Philippi (FIH lih pigh). **On the Sabbath, Paul and his friends went outside the city to the river to pray. Some women were there, and Paul started talking to them. A woman named Lydia was listening, and God opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying. Lydia and everyone in her house were baptized.**

On another day, Paul and Silas were on their way to pray, and a servant girl met them. She had a spirit in her that allowed her to predict the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling the future.

The girl followed Paul and Silas, shouting, "These men, who are telling you how to be saved, are servants of the Most High God!" She followed them for many days. Finally, **Paul turned and said to the spirit in her, "By the power of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!"** And the spirit came out right away.

Now the girl's owners were upset because she could no longer tell the future. They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the authorities. They complained about the things Paul and Silas were doing. **The officials ordered for Paul and Silas to be beaten and thrown into jail.**

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and

singing songs to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. **All of a sudden, a violent earthquake shook the jail. All the doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose! The jailer woke up and saw the prison doors open.** He thought the prisoners had escaped, so he took out his sword and was about to kill himself.

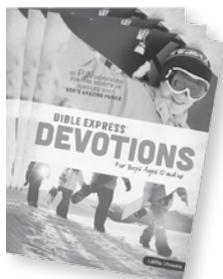
“Don't hurt yourself!” Paul said. “We are all here!”

The jailer rushed inside and fell down in front of Paul and Silas, shaking with fear. Then he took Paul and Silas outside. “Men, what must I do to be saved?” he asked.

They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” Paul and Silas told the message of Jesus to the jailer and to everyone in his household. All of them believed and were baptized right away.

The jailer washed Paul's and Silas' wounds. He brought them into his house and fed them. Later that day, Paul and Silas were set free.

Christ Connection: Lydia, the jailer, and many others were saved because they heard the gospel and believed in Jesus. Paul and Silas preached the same message to all people, no matter who they were: “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”



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Introduce the STORY

SESSION TITLE: Paul's Second Journey

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 16:11-34

MAIN POINT: Paul and Silas told the jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 1:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Ask: "Which natural disaster would you most like to study: floods, earthquakes, or tornadoes?"

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Earthquake!" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete "Earthquake!" on the activity page. Kids should number the stones to discover a main point.

SAY • The Bible story we will hear today involves a powerful earthquake that certainly shook things up! Two men—Paul and Silas—shared a message with a jailer that changed his life.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Find a place

Instruct kids to each find a place in the room. This is their "first place." Emphasize that kids should remember the location of their first place. Players' places must be at least an arm's length away from the places of other players.

Instruct everyone to find another place in the room. This will be their "second place." Insist that they remember



the location of their second place. Continue adding places until kids have selected four or five places. Then guide kids to return to their first place.

On your signal, kids should move from their first place to their second place, third place, and so on. You may choose to let them transition between locations by traveling in a special way: jumping, walking, skipping, tiptoeing backward, and so forth. End the game by guiding kids through the locations until they return to their first place.

SAY • Today we are going to hear more about one of Paul's missionary journeys. Paul traveled from place to place, telling everyone the good news about Jesus. After he traveled, he often returned to his first place: the church of Antioch in Syria.

OPTION 2: Shake it up

Before the session, prepare two belt boxes: Cut two perpendicular slits in the bottom of an empty tissue box. Weave an adjustable belt through the slits. Make another belt box and put five table tennis balls into each box.

- adjustable belts
- empty tissue boxes
- scissors
- table tennis balls, 10
- stopwatch or timer

Invite two players to “shake it up.” Assist each player in attaching the belt box around her waist with the box against her back. Players must remain standing and will have one minute to move around—jump, wiggle, and shake—to get all five balls out of the box. No player may touch the box, balls, or belt with her hands or any other body part.

Allow kids to compete. If your group is large, prepare additional belt boxes so everyone has time to participate.

SAY • Today's Bible story is about an earthquake! We'll hear how it really shook things up!

Transition to teach the story

Teach the STORY

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• sunscreen
• sunglasses

[Leader enters wearing a white outfit: white pants, white shirt or jacket, and a white hat. Leader is carrying sunscreen and sunglasses.]

LEADER • You're back! So am I. I can't wait to tell you about my trip to the third-largest ocean in the world: the Indian Ocean. This ocean is more than five times bigger than the United States! It is much warmer than the Southern Ocean, and it is actually home to many endangered species, such as turtles, seals, and—my personal favorite—sea cows!

[Slip on the sunglasses.] The Indian Ocean contains many islands, too! I would love to go back there on vacation; this trip was strictly for research. It is a pleasure to tell you about it though. That brings us to our Bible story for today. Paul traveled on several journeys, kind of like me! Let's dive in!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • If you remember the answer to our big picture question, shout it out after I ask the question: *How do people hear about Jesus?* [Let kids respond.] **God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.** Yes! Now, one more time: *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle.

LEADER • A couple weeks ago, we heard about Paul's first missionary journey. **The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell Jews and Gentiles about Jesus.** They went from Antioch to places like Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. That is the same message Paul took on his next missionary journey. We'll find out what happened to Paul when he traveled to share the gospel in an area called Macedonia.

• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 16:11-34. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Paul's Second Journey."

LEADER • Paul started churches in other cities and taught people about Jesus. On his second journey, Paul left Antioch in Syria and visited some of the places he went on his first journey—Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Asia. Paul met with the believers and encouraged them to keep following Jesus. Every day, more people believed in Jesus and the church grew.

• Bibles
• "Paul's Second Journey" video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster

God told Paul in a vision to go to Macedonia. Paul traveled with his friend Silas. Two big things happened on their journey. First, a woman named Lydia became a believer. Paul and Silas had gone to the river to pray. They spoke to the women who were there. God opened Lydia's heart to accept what Paul was saying. Lydia believed in Jesus. Lydia was baptized, and so was everyone in her household.

Then a jailer became a believer. This happened when Paul and Silas were thrown into prison. Late at night, an earthquake rocked the prison. The prisoners could have escaped, but they stayed where they were. The jailer asked Paul and Silas how to be saved. **Paul and Silas told the jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."**

Christ connection

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

LEADER • Did Lydia or the jailer have to do anything to be saved? Did they have to do a certain number of good deeds or give a large amount of money for God to accept them? No! Salvation is a gift from God that we can have by believing in Jesus. We do not need to earn salvation; we can only receive it by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus.

Lydia, the jailer, and many others were saved because they heard the gospel and believed in Jesus. Paul and Silas preached the same message to all people, no matter who they were: "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Acts 1:8.

LEADER • Have you been working to memorize our key passage? Jesus said these words to His disciples, and they came true! The Holy Spirit came to live in Jesus' followers, and He gave them power to be witnesses for Jesus. A *witness* is someone who tells others what they have seen and experienced.

How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved. Paul and Silas were witnesses for Jesus on Paul's second missionary journey. Let's sing our key passage song.

Lead boys and girls in singing "To the End of the Earth."

- Key Passage Poster
- "To the End of the Earth" song

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • In today's Bible story, **Paul and Silas told the jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."** Jesus' followers knew the good news that Jesus saved them from their sins. They dedicated their lives to sharing this news with others. Check out this video.

Show the "Unit 30, Session 4" discussion starter video.

Then lead kids to discuss the following questions:

- Why do you think the other kids didn't want a sandwich? They didn't know if it was good if they didn't try it. Nigel had tasted the sandwich and wanted to share with them because he thought it was so good.
- How is the gospel like good food?
- What can we do when people reject the good news?

- "Unit 30, Session 4" discussion starter video

LEADER • God calls us to share the gospel even when people are not happy to hear the message.

Sing (4 minutes)

• “A Mission from Above”
song

LEADER • When we have experienced something as wonderful as forgiveness through the gospel, we can sing and shout the story of God’s love. Jesus wants us to carry His good news to the world. Let’s sing. Sing together “A Mission from Above.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord God, thank You for Your Word. We see clearly that You take care of people. You took care of Paul and Silas. Thank You for taking care of us in so many ways. Help us to live in a way that makes people want to know about You, and help us to tell others about You. We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Apply the STORY

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- chalk or marker
- eraser

Display the key passage poster and lead kids to read it aloud together. Write the words of the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board. Erase one or two words and challenge kids to say the key passage.

Continue erasing a few words at a time until kids can recite the key passage from memory.

SAY • We memorize God's Word so we can remember what is true about God and about ourselves. Our key passage reminds us that God gives the Holy Spirit to believers. We have His power to do God's work of sharing the gospel with the whole world.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster

Provide a Bible for each kid. Guide boys and girls to find the Book of Acts in the Bible. Assist any kids who need help. Ask which Bible books come before the Book of Acts. (*the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*)

Ask review questions, encouraging kids to find the answers in the Bible:

1. Why did Paul and Silas go to the river? (*to pray, Acts 16:13*)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

2. What was the name of the woman at the river?
(*Lydia, Acts 16:14*)
3. What happened to Lydia and her household? (*They were baptized, Acts 16:15*)
4. How did the servant girl make money for her owners? (*by telling the future, Acts 16:16*)
5. What did the servant girl say about Paul and Silas?
(*“These men are servants of the Most High God!” Acts 16:17*)
6. What did the girl’s owners do to Paul and Silas?
(*dragged them to the authorities, Acts 16:19*)
7. What were Paul and Silas doing while in prison?
(*praying and singing to God, Acts 16:25*)
8. What caused the prison doors to open and the prisoners’ chains to come loose? (*an earthquake, Acts 16:26*)
9. What did Paul and Silas say the jailer needed to do to be saved? (**Paul and Silas told the jailer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” Acts 16:31**)

SAY • Lydia, the jailer, and many others were saved because they heard the gospel and believed in Jesus. Paul and Silas preached the same message to all people, no matter who they were: “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Around the World basketball (Round 2)

Hang a small basketball hoop or position an empty trash can against one wall. Use masking tape or painter’s tape to mark five Xs on the floor in a semi-circle around the hoop, a few feet from the basket. Form two teams and instruct kids how to play.

LOW PREP

- empty trash can or basketball hoop
- paper wad or basketball
- masking tape or painter’s tape

Option: Label some of the spots corresponding to places on Paul's journey: *Antioch, Cilicia, Lystra, Macedonia.*

Tip: If your group is small, play with one team and challenge kids to move around the arc as many times as they can.

1. The first player from team 1 will attempt to score a basket from the first *X*. If she scores, she moves to the next *X*. The shooter continues until she misses.
2. Then the next player from team 1 resumes at the *X* that was last shot from. Continue until all the players on team 1 have had a turn.
3. Each time the team moves around the arc, award 25 points and continue play from the first *X*.
4. Each time the arc is completed, encourage kids to stand a little farther behind the *X* to shoot. Then allow team 2 to play.

SAY • Everywhere they traveled, Paul and Silas preached the same message to all people, no matter who they were: “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” Lydia, the jailer, and many others were saved because they heard the gospel and believed in Jesus. ***How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.***

OPTION 2: Wristband reminders

Give each kid a large, wide rubber band. Demonstrate how to stretch the rubber band around a book. Display the main point poster and instruct kids to use fine-point permanent markers to write on the rubber bands the message Paul and Silas shared with the jailer: *Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.* If time and resources allow, suggest kids make extra rubber band messages to share with their friends or family members.

SAY • **Paul and Silas told the jailer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”** You can wear these rubber band messages on your wrist as a reminder of how God saves sinners. You can share this message

- large, wide rubber bands
- hardcover books
- fine-point permanent markers
- Main Point Poster (optional)

with your friends, family members, or neighbors.

Lydia, the jailer, and many others were saved because they heard the gospel and believed in Jesus. Paul and Silas preached the same message to all people, no matter who they were: “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray. Praise God for sending His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Thank Him for the church and for giving believers the honor of sharing the good news about Jesus with the whole world. Pray that kids would trust in Jesus alone for their salvation and that they would be faithful in the face of suffering or persecution.

As time allows, lead kids to complete “Mark the Way II” on the activity page. Kids should unscramble the clues to draw the route of Paul’s second missionary journey.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- “Mark the Way II” activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week’s *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.