

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 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."



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

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. As kids arrive, discuss times when the kids were grounded or had to sit through a time-out.

SAY • When you disobey, your parents may choose to discipline you by sending you to your room, grounding you from playing outside, or making you sit in time out. In our story today we will hear about a time Paul and Silas were sent to jail to punish them for sending a spirit out of a servant girl. Why would they be punished for that?

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Paul's Path" activity page.

Encourage kids to use their Bibles to find the correct order that Paul visited the cities listed on the map. Ask them to draw a line indicating the path Paul took.

SAY • Paul took many journeys to spread the gospel. Today we will learn about some of the places he went on his second missionary journey, as well as some of the people he shared the gospel with.

- "Paul's Path" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Disaster-preparedness drills

Take some time to research what to do in case of an earthquake (or other natural disaster that may be more common where you live). Guide your group of kids through a drill and discuss why each step is necessary to help kids stay safe in a dangerous situation.

SAY • Something like an earthquake is almost always seen as a dangerous event. We take special steps to make sure we stay safe if a natural disaster occurs. In today's story we will hear about a time an earthquake was part of God's plan to save people instead.

OPTION 2: Shake them out

Form five groups of kids. Give each group a tissue box with five table tennis balls inside. Each group of kids should take turns shaking the tissue box, without turning it upside down, to cause all the table tennis balls to fall out. You may choose to let each group use a stopwatch to see who can shake out the table tennis balls the fastest.

SAY • That was a fun—and shaky—game. Today we will hear a story about a time God let two men out of jail by shaking the earth! Sounds pretty incredible, doesn't it? We'll learn more soon!

Transition to teach the story



Tip: Check if your church has plans in place for any given disaster. If so, practice those with your group.

- empty tissue boxes, 5
- table tennis balls, 25
- stopwatches, 5 (optional)

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

[Leader enters wearing a blue denim shirt with a bright red knit hat.]

LEADER • Hello again, kids! It's been a crazy week. Our boat was caught in a storm a few days ago, and a man fell overboard! It was scary stuff, but we threw a flotation device out to him and were able to pull him to safety aboard the ship.

One of the other sailors mentioned that being onboard a ship in a storm felt like being in a building during an earthquake. I must confess, I don't know much about earthquakes. I spend most of my time on water, not land, but I thought it was an interesting point. It reminded me of our Bible story, at any rate. Would you all like to hear a story about a time Paul and Silas lived through an earthquake? Listen closely and I'll tell you!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • At first, it may not sound like an earthquake has much to do with our big picture question, but you'll understand soon. Let's first make sure we remember the question and answer by saying it all together: ***How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.*** Well done.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle.

LEADER • Remember back to the first week we learned about Paul. Who remembers what we learned? [*Allow responses.*] That's right. **Jesus saved Saul from his sins and chose him to spread the gospel.** We know that God had big plans for Paul. In fact, we learned that **the Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell Jews and Gentiles about Jesus.** Last week we talked about how the early church realized that we are saved by faith in Jesus alone. **The church in Jerusalem encouraged Gentile believers** with that message. This week, we will learn about another time Paul traveled around, this time with Silas, to spread the news of Jesus. Our story is called "Paul's Second Journey."

• 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's first journey marked the start of many new churches as Paul told people about Jesus and

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

they believed. Paul, on his second journey, was spreading the gospel to new people but also visiting with the churches that had already been started. Paul encouraged believers in cities he had visited before, like Iconium and Lystra.

In a vision, God instructed Paul to travel to Macedonia. While headed that way, Paul met a woman named Lydia. She sold purple cloth, which was one of the most difficult colors to make in those days. It often signified royalty. It's possible that Lydia was rich if she could afford to buy and sell purple cloth. When she heard the gospel, she believed and was saved. She and those who lived with her were baptized.

Later, Paul and Silas were arrested for sending an unclean spirit out of a girl. While in jail, they praised God and sang songs. That night, an earthquake shook the prison and caused the doors to open and the chains on Paul and Silas to come loose. The jailer was afraid they had escaped, but they told him they were still there. 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.”** That's all there was to it!

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.

Christ connection

LEADER • 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.

- Key Passage Poster
- “To the End of the Earth” song

LEADER • I hope each of you has worked on memorizing the key passage. This passage is important because it reminds us that Jesus left us with work to do, and that He sent us the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to do it. Jesus wants us to tell others about Him because that’s how the church grows and people believe. *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.*

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

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Have you ever tasted something so good, you just had to share it with a friend? Think about that as you watch this video.

- “Unit 30, Session 4” discussion starter video

Show the “Unit 30, Session 4” discussion starter video.

Discuss why the other kids rejected Nigel’s sandwich. How could they know if it was bad if they did not taste it? How is sharing Jesus like sharing a delicious food? What can we do if people reject the gospel?

LEADER • In a way, the gospel is like a delicious food that you can never run out of. No matter how much you share it, you will always have it for yourself, too. When we understand how wonderful Jesus is, we want everyone else to experience His love too. We share the gospel because Jesus commanded us to, and because it is a joyful experience to see others begin to love the things that we love.

• “A Mission from Above”
song

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • Our mission as Christians is to share the gospel.

We did not create this mission, God did!

Sing together “A Mission from Above.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • God, thank You for the beauty and simplicity of the gospel. Help us trust You more each day. Give us boldness to share the gospel with everyone we meet, even though we know some people will reject it. 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
- index cards
- pen
- tape
- "To the End of the Earth" song (optional)

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate index card. Use tape to attach each card to the back of a kid. Instruct the kids to work together to get in order without any kid looking at the word or phrase taped to his back. Once the kids are in order, invite each kid to say her word or phrase in order. You may want to use the hand motions from previous sessions. Sing "To the End of the Earth."

SAY • Our key passage reminds us that Jesus commanded His disciples to go all over the world with the power they received when the Holy Spirit came to them. Jesus said they would be His witnesses. *Witness* is a word used to describe someone who saw or heard something happen. Witnesses in this case are people who can explain what they know about Jesus and what they have seen Him do in their lives. This passage is a great reminder that we, as disciples of Jesus today, are also called to be witnesses in our community, nation, and around the world.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Explain that you will give

kids a Scripture reference and it will be their job to find the verse(s) as quickly as they can. The first kid to find the verse(s) and read the passage aloud wins a point. If your kids are finding this too difficult, consider limiting all verses to one book or even to one chapter.

Suggested Scripture references:

- John 3:16
- Mark 12:30-31
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Romans 10:9
- Matthew 28:19-20
- Acts 1:8
- Philippians 4:4
- Psalm 23:1-3

SAY • When Paul and Silas were arrested, they chose to spend their time in jail praising God. In the middle of the night, an earthquake shook the jail and caused the doors to break open and their chains to come loose! God rescued His servants. **Paul and Silas told the jailer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”** They knew that Jesus is trustworthy and good, and they knew that all anyone needs to be saved is faith that Jesus is their Lord and Savior. We can know the same thing and tell others to believe in Jesus too! We have verses like those you looked up to guide us in what we say to people we meet.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Balloon dodge ball

Form two teams of kids and instruct the teams to stand on opposite sides of the room. In the center of the room, place 5 to 10 inflated balloons.

Tip: You may want to adapt this activity into a chance to practice finding verses, instead of a race. Teach kids how to use the table of contents and find the verses together.

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

- balloons
- Allergy Alert download

When you say, “go,” kids will begin playing a game of dodgeball. Kids will try to throw balloons across the room to hit opponents, sending them to jail. If a kid catches a balloon thrown by an opponent, the kid who threw the balloon must go to jail. When kids are in jail, they must sing a praise song to be released. Play continues as time allows.

SAY • In our story, Paul and Silas were arrested and sent to jail. Instead of feeling sad for themselves, or angry at the men who put them there, they praised God. God rescued them from jail with an earthquake! **Paul and Silas told the jailer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”** They knew that anyone could be saved. The gospel is for all kinds of people.

OPTION 2: Alone or together?

Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil or marker. Instruct kids to fold their paper in half, then unfold it and draw a line down the center of their paper along the fold line. Read a list of activities and ask the kids to sort them based on whether or not they can do the activity alone. After a few activities, ask kids to come up with their own activities they can and cannot do alone. Some activities may fit well into either category.

Suggested activities:

- read
- eat lunch
- play a board game
- ride a bike
- do homework
- swing on a swing set
- use a seesaw

- paper
- pencils or markers

- sing praises to God
- share the gospel

SAY • Many activities we can do alone. Many activities we cannot do without a friend or partner to help us. Paul and Silas worked together to share the gospel. **Paul and Silas told the jailer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”** We need Jesus to be saved. We cannot be saved without help, and no one besides Jesus can save us.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child’s journal. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure each child secures this week’s sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring 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.