



Paul and Silas in Prison

Lesson Aim: To learn to praise God everywhere and every day, in good times and bad times.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Saves Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 16:25-26

What He Has Done: God freed Paul and Silas from jail.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save." Zephaniah 3:17a

Unit 3: The Promise of Salvation			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
12	Paul Visits Macedonia, Acts 16:9-10	The Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia.	To know we can help others know Jesus.
13	Paul and Lydia, Acts 16:13-15	God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.	To know God wants us to share with others.
14	Paul and Silas in Jail, Acts 16:25-26	God freed Paul and Silas from jail.	To learn to praise God everywhere and every day, in good times and bad times.
15	The Resurrection: Jesus Lives, John 20:1-18	Jesus died to save us and was raised from the dead.	To know Jesus died to save us and then rose to life.
16	Priscilla and Aquila, Acts 18:1-4; Romans 16:3-5a	God gave Paul friends who worked, served, and taught with him.	To know we can work and serve the Lord together.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 136. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the good things You give us. Remind us to think about them. Help the children praise You at all times. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Praise God! Let the children see that you love praising God. We can praise God everywhere, every day, and in many ways. We can praise Him through singing, dancing, musical instruments, prayer, by giving our offering, and in the things we do and say.



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a music notes
		Coloring Center: Paul and Silas in Jail	Coloring pages of Paul and Silas in jail, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Everywhere, Every Day	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Bubbles Center: Bubbling with Praise	Bubbles, bubble wand
	Activity Center: Praise Bop	2-3 inflated balloons, praise music	
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "He Is Mighty to Save" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Everyone Who Calls" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Love One Another" "We Love"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 3, Lesson 14
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 16:25-26	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 16:25 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, crepe paper streamer, noise maker
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Praise Shaker	Sturdy paper plate, paper streamers or ribbon, tape or glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Freeze Praise!	Praise Shaker crafts, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "He Is Mighty to Save" or other praise music
		Game: Praise in All Places	One chair per child
	Snack: Drumming Up Praise	Pretzel sticks	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 14
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 16:25-26	None
	Up to 10	Game: Bible Memory Verse Cheer	None
	Up to 10	Game: God Is with You	Beanbag, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "He Is Mighty to Save"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about praising God in both good and bad times

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who saves us

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of music notes. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of music notes help you remember to praise God everywhere, every day.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: PAUL AND SILAS IN JAIL

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Paul and Silas in jail, crayons

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

In our Bible story today, Paul and Silas were put in jail even though they had done nothing wrong. They could have been sad about being in jail but they weren't. They knew God was with them and He would care for them. Do you remember what our Bible Memory Verse says? Allow any volunteers to say the verse and then say it together. **"The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save." Zephaniah 3:17a**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: EVERYWHERE, EVERY DAY

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about praising God. Encourage children to make things they can praise God for with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

God loves when we praise Him. What can we praise God for? (family, friends, pets, His love, church, flowers, His watching over us, etc.), **Can you make something you can praise God for with the play-dough?**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BUBBLES CENTER: BUBBLING WITH PRAISE

SUPPLIES

Bubbles, bubble wand

DO

Children name things to praise God for while blowing bubbles.

TALK ABOUT

We can praise God everywhere and every day. God loves to hear us praise Him. Let's think of things to praise God for while we blow bubbles. Each time the children suggest something to praise God for (family, friends, pets, His love, church, flowers, His watching over us, etc.), blow bubbles for the children to catch.

ACTIVITY CENTER: PRAISE BOP

SUPPLIES

2-3 inflated balloons, praise music

DO

Children take turns bopping the balloons in the air while the music plays. Start with one balloon and add balloons when you feel the children are ready.

TALK ABOUT

Today, we will hear how Paul and Silas praised God by singing songs and praying. There are many ways to praise God: dancing, giving our offering, and playing music are just a few. Let's praise God by bopping balloons while we listen to some praise music.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"The Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
is with you,	(you) Index finger points straight ahead.
He is mighty	(mighty) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.
to save."	(save) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pulled apart, ending with both fists facing outward.
Zephaniah 3:17a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God who saves us
THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to God. Let's praise God by talking to Him in prayer. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, we praise You for loving us. Help us to remember to praise You everywhere and every day. Amen.**



God loves it when we sing praise to Him everywhere, every day! Sing: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God."

Today's story is about Paul and Silas. They gave their praise to God by singing. Another way to praise God is by giving our offering. Let's do that now. Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath" while collecting the offering.



Let's see if Delbert and Lello have heard about Paul and Silas praising the Lord. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 3, Lesson 14.



Praise the Lord your God. He is with you and He is mighty to save. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. Practice two or three times.

<p>"The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save."</p> <p>Zephaniah 3:17a</p>	<p>(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash. (you) Index finger points straight ahead. (mighty) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner. (save) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pulled apart, ending with both fists facing outward. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.</p>
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Let's praise God by singing our Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "He Is Mighty to Save."



Paul and Silas praised God in jail

THE WORD

Supplies: Bible with bookmark at Acts 16:25, picture of the Bible story, crepe paper streamer, noise maker

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Come in waving the streamer, making noise with the noise maker, and cheering, **Praise God!** Continue by saying, **I'm so glad you came to church today. You can help me praise God. On the count of 3, I want you to clap and shout, Praise God! Are you ready? 1 – 2 – 3 – "Praise God!" Great job! God loves to hear us praise Him.**

Can we praise Him at church? (Yes.) Can we praise Him at home? (Yes.) Can we praise Him in the car? (Yes.) Can we praise Him in the morning? (Yes.) Can we praise Him at night? (Yes.) We can praise God everywhere and every day! Paul and Silas knew that and they loved to praise God no matter what. Let's listen to their story. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 16:25.



WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 16:25-26

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Paul and Silas went to prison,**
- **Though they had done nothing wrong.**
- **The guard put their feet in chains and stocks,**
- **But they still sang praise songs.**

- **The prisoners listened to Silas and Paul**
- **As they praised the Lord that night.**
- **Then an earthquake came, and the chains came loose,**
- **And the prison doors opened wide!**

Where were Paul and Silas? (In jail.) Who were Paul and Silas singing praises to? (God.)



We can praise God

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: PRAISE SHAKER

Purpose: To remind the children that they can praise God everywhere, every day.

Supplies: Sturdy paper plate, paper streamers or ribbon, tape or glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: Cut three 1-foot streamers or ribbons. On the plate, print:

Paul and Silas praise the Lord.

Acts 16:25-26

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. The bells have been removed for ages 2-3 as they are a potential choking hazard for young children. You may choose to print or draw a picture for the middle of the plate or add additional streamers, ribbons, or other decorations.

Directions:

1. Color the plate.
2. Tape the three streamers or ribbons to the plate.
3. Show the children how to shake their Praise Shakers to praise the Lord.

Craft Discussion:

- **Where were Paul and Silas?** (In jail.)
- **What did Paul and Silas do in jail?** (Prayed and sang praise to God.)
- **Who heard Paul and Silas singing and praying?** (God and the other people in the jail.)
- **What happened when the earthquake shook the jail?** (The door opened and the chains fell off.)

Teacher Tip: The children's crafts are needed for the first game.
Be sure to write their names on their crafts.

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: FREEZE PRAISE!

Purpose: Children will practice praising God.

Supplies: Praise Shaker crafts, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "He Is Mighty to Save" or other praise music

Directions:

1. Play or sing the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song or other praise music.
2. As the music plays, everyone dances and shakes their Praise Shakers.
3. Stop the music and say, **"Everybody freeze!"**
4. Lead the class in saying,
Praise Him high. (Reach high.)
Praise Him low. (Touch the floor.)
Praise Him everywhere we go! (Stretch arms wide.)
5. Choose a child and say, Name of child **can you praise God right now?**
6. Child says, **"Praise God!"**
7. Play until each child has a turn to praise God.

GAME: PRAISE IN ALL PLACES

Purpose: Children will discover they can praise God everywhere, every day.

Supplies: One chair per child

Prepare: Create a jail by placing the chairs in the shape of a square. Have the chairs face the center.

Paul and Silas praised God everywhere, even in jail. They praised Him all the time, even late at night! You can praise God everywhere, every day just like Paul and Silas.

Directions:

1. Choose two children to be Paul and Silas.
2. Paul and Silas stand in the middle of the square and pretend to be in jail.
3. The other children sit in the chairs.
4. **Paul and Silas praised God while they were in jail. The other people in the jail sat and listened. Let's sit quietly and listen to Paul and Silas praise God.**
5. Lead Paul and Silas in saying the rhyme taught in "Freeze Praise!"
Praise Him high. (Reach high.)
Praise Him low. (Touch the floor.)
Praise Him everywhere we go! (Stretch arms wide.)
Praise God! (Stretch arms high.)
6. Play several times until each child has had a turn as Paul or Silas.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: DRUMMING UP PRAISE

Purpose: Children will discuss praising God.

Snack Suggestion: Pretzel sticks

Just as Paul and Silas prayed and sang, let's sing the "Blessing Song" to thank God for giving us our snack.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Paul and Silas praised God by singing songs and praying. There are many ways to praise God: dancing, giving our offering, and even playing music. Let's tap our pretzel sticks together and make a drumming noise to praise God!**
 - **There are so many ways to praise God—we can do it everywhere, every day. We can praise God when we are having a good day and we can praise Him when we are having a bad day. He always hears our praise.**
 - **What is your favorite way to praise God?** (Dance, sing, pray, shout, etc.) **What is your favorite song to sign to God?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"The Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
is with you,	(you) Index finger points straight ahead.
He is mighty	(mighty) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.
to save."	(save) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pulled apart, ending with both fists facing outward.
Zephaniah 3:17a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ACTS 16:25-26

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Paul and Silas went to jail,** (Point far away.)
- **Though they had done nothing wrong.** (Shrug shoulders.)
- **The guard put their feet in chains and stocks,** (Clasp hands around ankles.)
- **But they still sang praise songs.** (Cup hands around mouth, as if shouting.)

- **The prisoners listened to Silas and Paul** (Cup hand around ear, as if listening.)
- **As they praised God that night.** (Wave arms in the air.)
- **Then an earthquake came, and the chains came loose,** (Shake whole body.)
- **And the jail doors opened wide!** (Put hands together, and then spread arms wide.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save.” Zephaniah 3:17a

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CHEER

Purpose: Children memorize and review the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Practice the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Divide children into two groups. Each group stands on opposite ends of the play area.
3. Group 1 whispers, **“The Lord your God is with you.”**
4. Group 2 whispers back, **“He is mighty to save.”**
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 three more times, getting louder each time, until the children are using their strongest voices.
6. Have the groups switch phrases and play again.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: GOD IS WITH YOU

Supplies: Beanbag, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "He Is Mighty to Save"

Our Bible Memory Verse reminds us that God is always with us. Let's play a game to practice our verse. When I toss the beanbag to you, I want you to catch it and say, "He is mighty to save."

Directions:

1. Stand in a circle with the children.
2. Face one of the children in the circle. Say to him or her: "**The Lord your God is with child's name.**"
3. Toss the beanbag to the child.
4. Child replies, "**He is mighty to save.**"
5. Child tosses the beanbag back to you.
6. Repeat until each child has a turn.
7. At the end of the game, sing the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about praising God in both good and bad times.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 3, Lesson 14: Paul and Silas in Prison

PONDER! God freed Paul and Silas from jail. (Acts 16:25-26) What were Paul and Silas doing in jail? (Praying and singing praises.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for teaching us that Paul and Silas praised You while they were in prison. Help us praise You everywhere, every day. Amen."

PLAY! Together, play or sing a favorite praise song. Dance and shake your Praise Shaker craft! When the music stops, everyone freezes. Ask one person to shout their favorite thing about God. Start the music and play again. Make sure each person gets a turn to shout their praise!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord your God

(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

**is with you,
He is mighty
to save."**

(you) Index finger points straight ahead.

(mighty) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.

(save) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pulled apart, ending with both fists facing outward.

Zephaniah 3:17a

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.