



Paul and Silas in Prison

Lesson Aim: To learn to praise the Lord everywhere, 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 prison.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Praise the Lord."

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 respond to calls for help.
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 Prison, Acts 16:25-26	God freed Paul and Silas from prison.	To learn to praise the Lord everywhere, 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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of music notes
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Praise the Lord."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "He Is Mighty to Save" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Everyone Who Calls" "How Wide?" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "God Is So Good" "How Great Is Our God"
		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 Visual: Praise Shaker craft sample
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Praise Shaker	Sturdy paper plate, paper streamers or ribbon, 3 bells, yarn, tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Freeze Praise!	Praise Shaker crafts, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "He Is Mighty to Save"
		Game: Praise in All Places	One chair per child
		Snack: Drumming Up Praise	Pretzel sticks
	Circle of Prayer	None	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 14 Color This Story: "Paul and Silas Praise the Lord"
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: The Lord Is with You	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about praising God in both good and bad times

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Praise the Lord

THE 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. Today's Whisper Verse is "Praise the Lord."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Praise the Lord."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- "Praise"** The right index finger gently taps the lips and then both hands clap. This combines the signs for "truth" and "applaud" to create the sign for "praise."
- "(the) Lord."** Extend thumb and index finger of right hand to create an "L" shape. Bring "L" shape diagonal across chest from the left shoulder to the right hip as a royal sash.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Praise the Lord," Psalm 92:1a. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God who saves us **THE WORSHIP**

Additional Supplies: Flashlights (optional)

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 the God who saves us. Today's story is about Paul and his friend Silas. Paul was Saul's new name. Paul and Silas needed God to save them when they were in the prison. In prison, they sang praise to the Lord. That is our Whisper Verse today. Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: "Praise the Lord." Include sign language.



Paul and Silas gave praise to the Lord by singing. Another way to praise Him is by giving our offering. Let's do that now. Play: "God Is So Good" or "We Love" as background music while collecting the offering.

When Paul and Silas were praising the Lord, other people in the prison could hear them singing. Paul and Silas knew the Lord their God was mighty and could save them. We know a song all about our mighty God. Let's sing it loud for everyone to hear! Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."



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.



It was late at night when Paul and Silas were singing in the prison. It was very dark and they were in chains, but they sang and praised the Lord anyway. Let's pretend it is dark right now and sing praise to God! Dim the lights, or turn off the lights and use flashlights. Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."

Turn on the lights. **Now, let's sing praise to God in the light. God loves it when we sing praise to Him everywhere, every day!** Sing: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God."



Paul and Silas praised God in prison

THE WORD

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.

Ug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God helped Lydia share with Paul and his friends. Today, we will see how Paul and Silas praised God while they were in prison. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 16:25.

WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 16:25-26

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a Praise Shaker craft sample. Other visual options include Color This Story or any related picture.

- **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!**



Was it daytime or nighttime when Paul and Silas prayed and sang to God?

(Nighttime.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Acts 16:25 from the teacher's Bible.

Who were Paul and Silas singing praises to? (God.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Praise the Lord." Include sign language or hand motions. **Remember, God has many names. One of God's names is "Lord."**



We can praise the Lord

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, 3 bells, yarn, tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: Cut three 1-foot streamers or ribbons. Punch three holes around the edge of the plate. Use yarn to attach a bell to each hole. On the plate, print: **Paul and Silas praise the Lord. Acts 16:25-26**

Option: Instead of bells, attach buttons with longer yarn so the buttons clap against the plate when shaken. Substitute twist ties, ribbon, string, or pipe cleaners for the yarn.

Directions:

1. Color the plate.
2. Tape 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 prison.)
- **What did Paul and Silas do in prison?** (Prayed and sang praise to the Lord.)
- **That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: "Praise the Lord."
- **Who heard Paul and Silas singing and praying?** (God and the other people in the prison.)
- **What happened when the earthquake shook the prison?** (The door opened. The chains fell off.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: FREEZE PRAISE!

Purpose: Children will practice praising the Lord.

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

Directions:

1. Play or sing the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song. As the music plays, everyone dances and shakes their Praise Shakers.
2. Stop the music and say, "**Everybody freeze!**"
3. Ask one child to praise the Lord by saying one thing they know or love about Him.
4. Have all the children say and sign the Whisper Verse, "**Praise the Lord.**"
5. Play several times until each child has a chance to say one thing about the Lord.

GAME: PRAISE IN ALL PLACES

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

Supplies: One chair per child

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

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

Directions:

1. Children sit in the chairs as the prisoners.
2. Practice the praise chant below together with the hand motions.
Praise Him high. (Reach high.)
Praise Him low. (Touch the floor.)
Praise Him everywhere I go! (Reach from side to side.)
God is great! (Clap three times.)
3. Choose two volunteers to be Paul and Silas.
4. Paul and Silas stand in the middle of the square and pretend to be in prison.
5. **Paul and Silas praised the Lord in prison. The other prisoners heard their praises. How can you praise the Lord while the other prisoners sit quietly and listen?** Paul and Silas may say a prayer, sing a song, do a praise dance, say and sign the Whisper Verse, thank God for something special, etc.
6. All the children stand and say the praise chant together with the motions.
7. All the children sit down in their chairs.
8. 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 other 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. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "Praise the Lord."
 - **Paul and Silas praised the Lord by singing songs and praying. There are many ways to praise Him: dancing, giving our offering, and playing music are just a few. Let's tap our pretzel sticks together and make a drumming noise to praise the Lord!**
 - **There are so many ways to praise the Lord—we can do it everywhere, every day. We can praise the Lord 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 the Lord?** (Dance, sing, pray, shout, etc.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Praise Shaker" craft. Tell someone you can praise the Lord everywhere, every day.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Paul and Silas praised the Lord while they were in prison.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Paul and Silas Praise the Lord." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "He Is Mighty to Save," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Paul and Silas went to prison,** (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 the Lord that night.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **Then an earthquake came, and the chains came loose,** (Shake whole body.)
- **And the prison 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: THE LORD IS WITH YOU

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 sides of the play area and holds hands. A teacher or helper should be with each group.
3. Group 1 says to Group 2, "**The Lord your God is with** Group 1 teacher or helper names a child in Group 2."
4. That child runs to Group 1, says, "**He is mighty to save,**" and joins the group.
5. Group 2 then says to Group 1, "**The Lord your God is with** Group 2 teacher or helper names a child in Group 1."
6. The child runs to Group 2, says, "**He is mighty to save,**" and joins the group.
7. Repeat until every child has switched groups.



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! Read Acts 16:25-26 with your family. Where were Paul and Silas? What did they do there? What happened when the earthquake shook the prison? Paul and Silas praised God, even when they were in prison. Talk about the many places and times where you can praise the Lord.

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

Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse:

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