



READERS' THEATRE
**PAUL, SILAS, AND
THE JAILER**
Acts 16:22-34 (NIRV)

This Readers' Theatre Script is a compilation of scripture quotes from Acts 16:22-34. The quotes are taken directly from the New International Reader's Version.

Teacher assigns roles and places everyone for the scene. Nonreaders and younger students often prefer to dress up and act out each sentence as the teacher and assistant read. Older, more proficient readers, may want to read the parts.

Prepare: With floor tape, mark off the jailer's home (next to prison). Use rows of chairs (or floor tape) to create prison walls, with three chairs as the prison door.

1. NARRATORS 1 & 2: Teacher, assistant, or volunteer
2. JAILER: Boy
3. PAUL: Boy
4. SILAS: Boy
5. PRISONERS: 5-10 students
6. JAILER'S FAMILY: 5-10 students

Scene

Jailer's family sits in the family's house, with a pitcher and empty water bowl.

Prison walls are defined by rows of chairs lined up to make a large, square jail cell.

Jailer, Paul and Silas stand outside prison door.

Prisoners sit on floor in prison and pretend they are each shackled to a leg of a chair.

[NARRATOR 1] Paul and Silas were thrown into prison. The jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received his orders, he put Paul and Silas deep inside the prison. He fastened their feet so they couldn't get away.

[Jailer leads Paul and Silas to a far corner of the room, locking their feet in imaginary stocks. Jailer then uses the row of three chairs to "close the prison door". He goes to sit with his family. He falls asleep in his chair.]

[NARRATOR 2] About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying. They were also singing hymns to God.

[Paul and Silas sing a familiar hymn such as "Awesome God" or "Amazing Grace."]

[NARRATOR 1] The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a powerful earthquake.

[All prisoners pound fists for 10 seconds on floor symbolizing the earthquake.]

[NARRATOR 2] It shook the prison from top to bottom. All at once the prison doors flew open. Everybody's

chains came loose.

[Remove 3 chairs to make an open prison door. All the prisoners stand unshackled.]

[NARRATOR 1] The jailer woke up. He saw that the prison doors were open. He pulled out his sword and was going to kill himself. He thought the prisoners had escaped.

[Jailer pulls out an imaginary sword.]

[PAUL] "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

[NARRATOR 2] The jailer called out for some lights. He rushed in, shaking with fear. He fell down in front of Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out.

[JAILER] "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

[PAUL and SILAS] "Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and your family will be saved."

[NARRATOR 1] The jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds.

[Jailer uses rag and bowl of imaginary water.]

[NARRATOR 2] Right away he and his whole family were baptized.

[Paul sprinkled each family member with imaginary water.]

[NARRATOR 1] They were filled with joy. They had become believers in God.

THE END