



Paul and Silas in Prison

Lesson Aim: For believers to praise God everywhere, every day.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Saves Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 16:22-34

What He Has Done: God freed Paul and Silas from prison and saved the jailer and his family.

Key Verse: Acts 16:31

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Psalm 145:2

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8

Unit 3: The Promise of Salvation			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
12	Paul Visits Macedonia, Acts 16:6-10	The Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia.	To know the Holy Spirit can lead us.
13	Paul and Lydia, Acts 16:12-15	God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.	To know God opens our hearts to respond to Him.
14	Paul and Silas in Prison, Acts 16:22-34	God freed Paul and Silas from prison and saved the jailer and his family.	For believers to praise God everywhere, every day.
15	The Resurrection: Jesus Lives, John 20:1-18	God raised Jesus from the dead.	To understand what Jesus' resurrection means for the Church.
16	Priscilla and Aquila, Acts 18:1-3, 9-11, 26	God gave Paul friends who worked, served, and taught with Him.	To know God gives us opportunities to serve Him together.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 8:28-39. Please join us in praying, "We praise You, Lord, for the plan You have for each day of our lives. Help the children trust You and praise You even during difficult times. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Prison Praise	Two musical instruments
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: "Whatever Is True" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am the Way" "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" "I Praise You" "For God So Loved the World" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Every Move I Make" "Here I Am to Worship"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Revelation 7:9-10	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 14 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Acts 16:22-34	Readers' Theatre scripts, props, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, map of Paul's Second Missionary Journey (available at ResourceWell.org)
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, optional supplies: chairs or floor tape
		Christ Connection: Psalm 145:2	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Paul's Ponder Page (available at ResourceWell.org), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "Whatever Is True"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Pretzel Sticks of Praise	Pretzel sticks
	Up to 15	Game: Whatever Charades	Paper bag, seven small slips of paper, marker, timer
	Up to 10	Craft: Paul's Letter Keeper	Notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Discussion: Paul's Ponder Page—Philippians 4:8	Paul's Ponder Pages (available at ResourceWell.org), pencils, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Signs of Philippians 4:8	Ten large, sturdy sheets of paper or cardboard, marker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Up and Down Bible Verse	Beach ball, permanent marker
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite song about God?

GAME: PRISON PRAISE

Purpose: Children will learn that Paul and Silas praised God in prison.

Supplies: Two musical instruments (For example: tambourine, shakers, wood blocks, triangle, drum sticks, two pot lids as cymbals, etc. Avoid any instruments where a mouthpiece must be shared.)

Today, we will discover Paul and Silas were thrown into prison even though they had done nothing wrong. At midnight in the prison, they sang and prayed to God. Before we find out what happened next, let's play our own Prison Praise game.

Directions:

1. Form two teams of an equal number of children.
2. On each team, assign each children a number from one to the number of people on the team.
3. Teams sit or stand shoulder-to-shoulder on opposite sides of the play area.
4. Place the two musical instruments in the center between the two lines. Tell each team which musical instrument is theirs.
5. Say, **You are free to praise God, number choose a number.**
6. The child from each team who was assigned that number races to their team's musical instrument in the center of the play area. Whichever child reaches it first and plays it, gets a point for their team.
7. Continue to choose numbers and play until each child has a turn.
8. The goal is to be the team with the most points at the end of the game.

Limited Space? Play the "Whatever Charades" game located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



The God who saves us

THE WORSHIP

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 music as children move to the designated area.

Seven Stars of Lent: If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at ResourceWell.org. Go to Other Resources. Click on The Seven Stars of Lent and choose one star for each week during Lent.

Today, we worship the God who saves us. We have a great reason to praise Jesus everywhere and every day, because He is our Savior! He hears our praise wherever we are. On the streets of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, the people waved palm branches, praising Jesus, and shouting "Hosanna," which means "Save us!" From their prison cell late at night, Paul and Silas praised God. Here today, we praise Him, too. One day in heaven, the Bible promises that believers from all over the world and from all times in history will be waving palm branches and praising God in every language. Imagine what that will look like and sound like!



Read Revelation 7:9-10.



As we praise Him with our money offering, think about things that are true, noble, kind, pure, lovely, admirable, praiseworthy, and excellent about Jesus. Sing: "Whatever Is True" while collecting the offering.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 3, Lesson 14.



You may also choose to sing songs that focus on praising the Lord.



Paul and Silas praised God

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned that in Philippi, Paul told a woman named Lydia about Jesus. What happened when God opened Lydia's heart to Paul's message? (She believed, was baptized, and served God by inviting Paul and his friends to stay in her home.)

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Paul and Silas in Prison. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Today, we will discover what happened to Paul and Silas in Philippi after they stayed at Lydia's home. We will hear how they were dragged to the marketplace to face city officials called magistrates.** If a map is available, track Paul's second missionary journey, or point out the distance from Troas to Philippi in modern day Greece (ancient Macedonia). See ResourceWell.org for free maps of Paul's missionary journeys.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 16:22-34.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

READERS' THEATRE: Instead of reading our Bible passage, let's act it out. Distribute Readers' Theatre scripts to the children, assign roles, and hand out props. Read and act out Acts 16:22-34.

Optional: The Readers' Theatre script directly quotes the Bible Story Scripture passages. If you choose to omit the Readers' Theater, read Acts 16:22-34.



Praise God everywhere, every day

THE WAY

Optional Supplies: Chairs or floor tape

What did Paul and Silas do in prison that night? (They sang hymns and prayed to God.) **What were the other prisoners doing?** (Listening to their prayers and songs.) **What did God send that caused the prison doors to fly open and the prisoners' chains to loosen?** (An earthquake.) **The earthquake freed the prisoners to escape, but they all stayed so the jailer would not get in trouble. Paul and Silas told the jailer that if he believed in the Lord Jesus, he would be saved. When the jailer heard this, he believed and he and his whole family were baptized. How did the jailer care for Paul and Silas?** (He washed their wounds and brought them to his home for a meal.) **Why was the jailer filled with joy?** (He and his whole family now believed in God.)

Let's imagine we are in prison. Seat the children in an area defined by walls, chairs, or floor tape. **Describe the door and walls of our prison.** (Metal bars, stone walls, steel door, etc.) **The Bible says the jailer put Paul and Silas in stocks. Stocks were wooden blocks that locked prisoner's ankles down so they could not stand or escape. Imagine your feet are fastened in stocks now.**

Even though Paul and Silas had been beaten and locked in a prison, they still prayed and sang to God. They knew God loved them and they belonged to Jesus. Thinking about those things may have helped them pray and sing praise to God even though they were having a very hard time. Everywhere and every day, there is always a reason to praise God—even at midnight in a prison!

Sometimes it is hard to see anything good in a bad situation. In fact, we may not understand why bad things happen until we get to heaven. But, in his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul shows us a way we can always praise God. Together, say the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse or sing the Bible Memory Verse Song "Whatever Is True." **Maybe Paul thought about those things when he was in the prison in Philippi.**

If time allows, see the PAUL'S PONDER PAGE discussion located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Anyone who belongs to God has a reason to praise Him everywhere, every day in good times and in bad. Check out what King David said 3,000 years ago about praising God.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 145:2. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Psalm 145:2.

To extol means to praise. We all have many reasons to praise God. Even during hard times, there is always a reason to praise Him. What is one thing you would you like to praise God for today? (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is Paul's Ponder Page. Keep it somewhere you can see it at home. Whenever you are troubled, ponder the picture and the passage. As Paul said, "Think about these things!"

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 14 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Paul and Silas in prison praising God.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Whatever Is True," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: PRETZEL STICKS OF PRAISE

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while they discuss praising God.

Snack Suggestion: Pretzel sticks

What did Paul and Silas do while they were locked in prison? (Prayed and sang to God.) **They must have been very uncomfortable with their feet locked in stocks. Paul and Silas praised God even though it was very unfair that they were locked up. We can praise God and pray everywhere, every day, in good times and in bad times. As we eat, let's talk about your favorite place to praise God.**

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Children may tap pretzel sticks together as praise drumsticks before eating snack.
4. Ask each child to answer this question: **"Where is your favorite place to praise God?"**

GAME: WHATEVER CHARADES

Purpose: Children act out examples of the adjectives found in the Bible Memory Verse: Philippians 4:8

Supplies: Paper bag, seven small slips of paper, marker

Prepare: Create a "Whatever Bag." Write "Whatever" on the front of the paper bag. On each of the seven slips of paper, write one of the seven adjectives found in the Bible Memory Verse along with the brief definition provided below. Place them in the "Whatever Bag."

- ◆ Whatever is true: A real fact
- ◆ Whatever is noble: Respectable, showing good character
- ◆ Whatever is right: Fair and good in God's eyes
- ◆ Whatever is pure: Without sin, clean in God's eyes
- ◆ Whatever is lovely: Beautiful, pleasing
- ◆ Whatever is admirable: Deserving to be admired, respected
- ◆ Whatever is excellent or praiseworthy: Deserving praise, terrific, outstanding

In our Bible Memory Verse, we can find many reasons to praise God. We can praise Him for showing us things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and excellent.

Directions:

1. Choose 2-4 volunteers. One volunteer draws a slip of paper from the "Whatever Bag." Together, the volunteers act out the adjective while the class guesses. They continue until someone guesses correctly.
2. Play again, until the bag is empty. Choose new volunteers each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PAUL'S LETTER KEEPER

Purpose: To create a collection of verses from Paul's letters as the children learn of Paul's travels and his writings.

Supplies: Notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: For any children who did not begin the craft in Lesson 12, provide materials for a cover (See lesson 12.) and a map of Paul's second missionary journey (available at ResourceWell.org). Display the following text for all to copy (or preprint for younger children):

**Dear friends in Philippi,
"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or
praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8
Your friend, Paul**

Teacher Tip: This craft is designed to continue through Units 3-4 (Lesson 12-21). For each lesson, children add a new letter to their Letter Keeper. They can take their Letter Keeper home and bring it back for each lesson, or the teacher can collect them after each lesson and give them their completed Letter Keepers at the end of Unit 4.

Option: Each of Paul's letters in the Letter Keeper craft can be created as an individual craft instead of part of a collection.

Paul started many churches while on his journeys. He also returned to visit the same churches many times. He wrote letters to help them know how to love God and follow Jesus. We can find many of Paul's letters in the New Testament of the Bible. Let's imagine we are helping Paul collect copies of his letters. With each story we learn, we will mark on a map where Paul was on his journey and add an envelope containing one of his messages.

Today, we learned Paul and Silas praised God while in prison in Philippi. They even helped the jailor and his family to believe in Jesus. Later, Paul wrote to his friends in Philippi when he was in prison in another town. He encouraged them to think about all that is excellent and praiseworthy. When we think about these things, we want to praise God for them, even if our lives are hard or sad at that moment. Let's add our Bible Memory Verse, which is another part of Paul's letter to the Philippians, to our Letter Keepers.

Directions:

1. Copy the words of Philippians 4:8 onto a sheet of notebook paper. Decorate the paper with a picture of one way you like to praise God.
2. Address the envelope to "The Church at Philippi." Write "From Paul" as the return address.
3. Punch holes in the envelope to match the holes in your Letter Keeper.
4. Unclasp the binding of your Letter Keeper. Add the new envelope and re-clasp.
5. Place the verse from Philippi inside the envelope.
6. If you did not place a star sticker on the region of Philippi in Lesson 13, do it now.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

DISCUSSION: PAUL'S PONDER PAGE—PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Purpose: Children connect Philippians 4:8 with Paul's experience in the prison at Philippi.

Supplies: Paul's Ponder Pages (available at ResourceWell.org), pencils, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster

What do you think Paul and Silas thought about as they prayed and sang songs praising God in the prison? (Children respond.) **Maybe they thought about the things Paul told us to think about in our Bible Memory Verse, Philippians 4:8. Paul wrote these words to the church in Philippi. Let's say them together.** Recite Philippians 4:8.

Directions:

1. Distribute one Paul's Ponder Page and a pencil to each child.
2. One at a time, read each word and its definition aloud. Discuss how the word connects with the examples from the story of Paul and Silas in prison found in Acts 16:22-34.
3. On the second page, brainstorm and write down ideas of personal examples.

When you get home, use the box on Paul's Ponder Page for a photo or a drawing of something that reminds you of at least one of the following words: true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8

GAME: THE SIGNS OF PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, marker

Prepare: Create 10 signs by writing each phrase of the Bible Memory Verse (below) on a sheet of paper.

Teacher Tip: For added fun, mix the signs and have the children work together to stand in line in order.

Directions:

1. Have 10 children stand in front of the class. (Smaller classes may give children more than one sign.) Give each child a sign, keeping the signs in order.
2. Starting at the beginning of the verse, have each child lift up his or her sign as the class repeats the words on the sign. Ask children to respond to the questions below:

Whatever is true,	What is something that is true about God?
Whatever is noble,	Noble means respectable. Who do you respect?
Whatever is right,	What is something you know is right?
Whatever is pure,	Pure means without sin. What is a pure thought or action that is right in God's eyes?
Whatever is lovely,	What is something that is beautiful?
Whatever is admirable—	Who is someone you admire or respect?
If anything is excellent	What is something excellent about God?
Or praiseworthy—	What is something so good, it is worth praising God for?
Think about such things.	
Philippians 4:8	
3. **All of the good things that you listed come from God. When we think about those things, they help us love and obey God!**

GAME: UP AND DOWN BIBLE VERSE

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Beach ball or sturdy paper, permanent marker

Prepare: Write the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse on a ball (or sturdy paper if a ball is not available) in list form using the same ten phrases as listed in the above game. Number the phrases in order, 1-10.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a line, one behind the other. Give the ball to the first child in line.
2. First child recites the first phrase from memory or reads it from the ball, then passes the ball between his or her legs to the second child.
3. Second child says the next phrase, then passes the ball over his or her head to the third child.
4. Children continue saying the phrases and passing the ball, alternately through the legs and over the head until the ball reaches the end of the line. If the verse ends before the end of the line, repeat the verse.
5. As a challenge, repeat the game passing the ball and reciting the verse faster and faster.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-21 are not available. Events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) On Paul's second missionary journey, God gave him a vision about a man from Macedonia. What was the man begging Paul to do? (To come and help them.) Paul, Silas, and Timothy got ready to go to Macedonia right away. They knew the Holy Spirit was leading them to tell the Macedonians about Jesus.

Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) Continuing on his second missionary journey, Paul went with Silas and Timothy to Philippi. There, God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message. What did Lydia do in response to Paul's message? (She was baptized. She invited them to stay at her home.)

Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.) After staying in Lydia's home, Paul and Silas were unfairly thrown into jail. What did the other prisoners hear them doing that night in the prison? (Praying and singing hymns.) After God sent the earthquake, the prisoners could have escaped, but they stayed. Paul told the jailer about Jesus. What happened to the jailer? (He and his family believed and were baptized.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Acts through Revelation:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at www.resourcewell.org).
2. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Acts – Revelation: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.) > Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes (Circa 33 A.D.) > Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.) > Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) > God Changes Saul's Heart (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Saul Escapes from Damascus (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Peter and Tabitha (Circa 34-37 A.D.) > Peter Visits Cornelius (Circa 38 A.D.) > Peter Escapes from Prison (Circa 41-44 A.D.) > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-47 A.D.) > Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 62 A.D.)