

LESSON 2

PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Is Powerful**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 16**GOD'S BIG STORY:** After Paul and Silas are thrown in prison, an earthquake shakes the prison, opening the doors and loosening chains. Amazed by God's power, the jailer and his household believe in Jesus and are saved!**WORD OF WONDER:** Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. —Romans 8:14

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Your Love For Me, Jesus Loves Me (remix)
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



Holy Spirit Our Helper Preschool Spotify playlist



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Is Powerful

SCRIPTURE: Acts 16

WORD OF WONDER: Romans 8:14

One of the best things about being a follower of Jesus is knowing that we have the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. What power is that? The power over evil spirits, the power over our circumstances, the power of salvation. Read Acts 16:16–36, and you can see the Holy Spirit working in each of these ways.

Through Paul, the Spirit delivered a possessed slave girl, rescued Paul and Silas by opening prison doors and loosening chains, and then led a Roman jailer to salvation—along with his whole family. Now that’s some power! The power to do it all. This is the same Spirit guiding us and working within us. He hasn’t changed.

But it’s up to us to keep trusting that the Spirit is working in our lives. Even when Paul and Silas were thrown into prison, they didn’t doubt or sulk about their situation; they praised God! They sang and prayed and continued to trust that God would show up. When have you seen the Spirit work in powerful ways? When a situation changes and things go from good to bad, how do you respond? Remember that God, through the Holy Spirit, is working powerfully, guiding us in our work to bring Him glory in all we do. When we trust the Holy Spirit, good things follow.

—Kramer Mize

Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Paul and Silas became traveling companions after Paul and Barnabas parted company. Silas was a Jewish man who was a leader and prophet in the church of Jerusalem. He had previously traveled with Paul to Antioch as a delegate of the Jerusalem Council.

WHAT?

After Paul drove out an evil spirit, he and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison. They prayed and sang hymns, and an earthquake opened the prison doors, but they did not leave. Instead, they shared the gospel with the jailer and his household.

WHERE?

Philippi was a major city in the northern region of Macedonia, about 10 miles inland from the port city of Neapolis, where Paul arrived from Troas. It was a Roman colony greatly influenced by Roman culture. Philippi is in the northern part of present-day Greece.

WHEN?

This story takes place around AD 50, during what is known as Paul's second missionary journey. It comes shortly after Paul and his companions arrived in Philippi and shared the message of Jesus with Lydia, whose house became Paul's homebase in Philippi.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

In this story, the news of the risen Jesus continues spreading and the church continues growing as the Spirit moves in power even through challenging circumstances. Angry mobs, beatings, and prison walls do not thwart the advance of God's kingdom.

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Is Powerful

SCRIPTURE: Acts 16

WORD OF WONDER: Romans 8:14

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Curiosity Activity: Balloon Power

SUPPLIES: uninflated balloon, table tennis ball, table

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

Gather kids together around the table and show them an uninflated balloon and the table tennis ball.

"Do you think this balloon is powerful enough to knock this table tennis ball across the table?"

Allow the kids to share their thoughts. Lay the ball on the table and lay the uninflated balloon right behind it. **Is anything happening? Nope! The balloon doesn't have any power. It needs something to give it power.**

What do you think this balloon needs? Allow kids to give ideas. Blow up the balloon with air but do not tie it. **Now the balloon is filled with something. What is it filled with?** Allow the kids to respond. **It's filled with air! What will happen if I let go of the end of the balloon? The air will come out. Do you think the air inside the balloon is powerful enough to knock the ball off the table? Let's try.** Hold the balloon right behind the ball with one hand while releasing the opening of the balloon with the other so that the air rushing out of the balloon pushes the ball off the table.

Wow! The balloon was powerful enough to knock the ball off the table, but it wasn't powerful enough alone. It needed air inside it to give it power. We can't see air, but we can see how powerful the air is.

Today we'll learn more about the Holy Spirit. Just like we couldn't see the air in our balloon, we can't see the Holy Spirit. The air in our balloon had some power, but the Holy Spirit has all power!"

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

RESOURCES: Tac the Cat puppet

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: It's time to see if Tac the curious cat is around. On the count of three, let's shout his name and see if he can hear us. One, two, three ... Tac!

Tac the Cat: Hi, friends! Here I am! How are you today?

Leader: We are doing well! How are you, Tac? What are you curious about today?

Tac the Cat: I'm curious about a word I heard—an *earthshake*.

Leader: Earthshake? What's that? Do you mean earthquake?

Tac the Cat: Oh yes! That's what I meant! What's an earthquake?

Leader: An earthquake happens when big rocks under the ground move along a crack in the earth and cause the ground to shake. Sometimes it shakes really hard and sometimes just a bit.

Tac the Cat: Oh, wow. I bet it would be cool to watch!

Leader: It might be cool to watch, but when earthquakes happen, they can be really powerful. They can be powerful enough to knock down big buildings!

Tac the Cat: Oh, wow! That sounds so powerful!

Leader: It reminds me of a story in the Bible about an earthquake ... and it reminds me of someone even more powerful than earthquakes!

Tac the Cat: Oh, I know—God!

Leader: God is definitely more powerful than earthquakes. Today in God's big story, we're going to learn how God used an earthquake to show His power, and we are going to learn that the Holy Spirit is powerful.

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever heard of earthquakes? Allow the kids to respond. What else can you think of that is powerful? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God is more powerful than anything else?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS POWERFUL**. Today we'll discover how the Holy Spirit is powerful!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

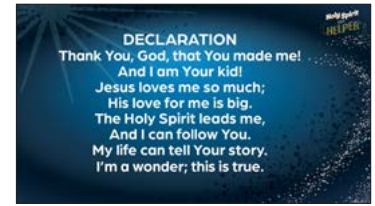
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **Father God, we thank You for this time to learn about You and Your Holy Spirit. We ask Your Spirit to guide us and show us His power. Help us to understand that You've given us Your presence because You love us and will help us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn how the Holy Spirit is powerful. Let's sing about the Holy Spirit together!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Your Love For Me, Jesus Loves Me (remix)

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Acts in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, large blanket (or parachute)

RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Video](#), [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Before you begin, spread out a blanket (or parachute) in a different area of the room from where you will gather your kids for the story.

"In this part of God's big story, Jesus had already gone up to heaven. Then the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers. The Holy Spirit is God, and His power, wisdom, and love help His followers tell the good news about Jesus. There are lots of stories of the Holy Spirit's work in the Bible in the book of Acts.

Acts tells us about one of Jesus' followers named Paul. Paul used to be against Jesus and His followers. Then God changed Paul's heart and filled him with the Holy Spirit. Later, the Spirit led Paul and his friends to a city called Philippi. They went to tell more people about Jesus.

Let's pretend we are Paul and his friends. Let's pretend we are traveling to Philippi. Walk the kids to the area of the room where you have spread out a blanket (or parachute) on the ground.

God did amazing things through Paul and his friends! With the power of the Holy Spirit, people were saved and healed. Lots of people heard about Jesus! Some people in the city were not happy. They did not want people to listen to Paul and his friends. They wanted people to follow their own laws and rulers. They put Paul and his friend Silas in jail.

Let's all sit on this blanket and pretend that we are in jail like Paul and Silas. Encourage kids to sit along the edges of the blanket.

The jailer in charge of the prison guarded Paul and Silas. He did not want them to get out. He put chains on their feet. What would they do now? Cry? Sleep? Sit and be quiet? In the middle of the night, Paul and Silas prayed and sang to God.

Make It Inclusive! Be mindful of kids who might have family members in prison or who might have a fear of being put in prison. Even though prison might be a scary thing, God used it for something good, and He can use scary or hard situations in our lives for good as well.

Let's sing praises to God together just like Paul and Silas did. Sing a short praise song together with the kids. You could use one from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) or sing "Jesus Loves Me" with the kids.

Guess what happened when Paul and Silas prayed and sang? The whole prison began to shake! There was an earthquake!

Have all the kids stand up and take hold of the edge of the blanket and shake it to pretend an earthquake is happening.

The prison doors flew open. Everyone's chains fell off!

Have kids put the blanket down on the floor and scoot away from it. **Do you think Paul and Silas ran out of the prison? Let's see what happened next!**

The jailer woke up and saw the open doors. How could this happen? He thought he would be in trouble. He thought all the prisoners escaped. Then Paul told him, "We are all here!" (Acts 16:28). The jailer rushed in. He was afraid. He knew something powerful was happening.

The jailer asked Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Let's all say "believe" together. Lead kids in shouting, "believe!"

Paul and Silas shared the good news about Jesus with the man and his family. They all believed in Jesus! They got baptized with water to show that God washed them clean of their sin. Sin is the wrong things people do. The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house to feed them. Paul and Silas were set free the next day.

Nothing could stop God's power from telling people about Jesus! Paul and Silas shared the good news even when they were in jail! The prison doors opened, chains fell off, and a whole family trusted in Jesus. The Holy Spirit was still at work. The Holy Spirit is powerful."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS POWERFUL. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.**

In this part of God's big story, the good news of Jesus kept spreading and the church kept growing as the Holy Spirit moved in power even through hard things. Nothing could stop God's kingdom from growing!"

Prayer and Blessing

Pray with kids, thanking God for showing us His power. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Let's talk to God. God, thank You for showing us Your power. Help us to never forget how powerful You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May you be amazed as you discover the power of God's Holy Spirit. May His presence go before you as He leads, loves, and guides you, and may He give you peace.