

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

- Play Stations:
 - Building Blocks
 - Create a Song
 - Paul and Silas in Prison Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: Romans 8:14
- God's Big Story
- Circle Time: Air Power Review
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Chains
- Closing Game: This or That?





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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: blocks, toy people (2), small box or bin, toy musical instruments, coloring utensils, dolls or stuffed animals (optional)

RESOURCES: Paul and Silas in Prison Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Building Blocks

Set-up: Set out blocks and two toy people. Use some of the blocks to begin putting together a building inside the box or bin to give kids an idea of where to start. Set the toy people inside the block building in the box.

Play: Kids can use the blocks already in the box or bin to make a building, then place the two toy people inside it. Once they're done with their building, they can shake the box or bin and watch as their building falls down and frees the people inside.

Play Station: Create a Song

Set-up: Set out toy musical instruments. You can also set out dolls or stuffed animals.

Play: Kids can use the instruments to create their own praise songs. They can perform their songs for dolls or stuffed animals if you have some out.

Play Station: Paul and Silas in Prison Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Paul and Silas in Prison Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of something that is powerful.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

—Romans 8:14

"Let's practice saying our Word of Wonder together. Practice saying the verse and doing the motions together with the kids several times.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse once or twice with you.

- **THOSE WHO ARE**—Hold your hands out in front of you with palms together, then open them up.
- **LED BY THE**—March in place like following the leader.
- **SPIRIT OF GOD**—Hands up in front of your head, bringing them down.
- **ARE CHILDREN**—Hands on hips.
- **OF GOD.**—Point up.
- **ROMANS 8:14**—Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.

Let's see how well we know our Word of Wonder! The verse talks about the Holy Spirit leading God's children. We're going to take turns leading one another! Who wants to take a turn leading the group in saying the verse? Pause for kids to raise their hands. **Great! You can have us practice any way that you'd like. For example, we can say the verse in a funny voice, do hand motions that go along with the words, or do any other creative action you think of.** Select one kid to say the verse in a unique way. Then everyone else will copy him, saying the verse in the same way.

Some kids will be excited to lead but might need help thinking of a unique way to say the verse. Here are some ideas to get them started: Talk in a silly voice (robot, slow motion, high-pitched, etc.), jump up and down while saying the verse, whisper the verse, tiptoe in place while saying the verse, etc.

Allow multiple volunteers the opportunity to lead for as long as time allows. You may also consider having teams of kids lead the verse together.

Leader Tip: Some kids might not be familiar with what it means to be children of God. Explain the amazing truth that anyone who chooses to follow Jesus and accept God's gift of forgiveness and salvation is a child of God!

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does the Holy Spirit lead us?** (If the kids have trouble coming up with answers, guide them by reminding them that the Holy Spirit helps us know how to obey God, how to live, and leads us in sharing His love with others.)
- **What does it mean to be a child of God?** (If the kids have trouble coming up with answers, remind them that those who trust in Jesus as their Savior are adopted into God's family, are forgiven, and become children of God.)

God's Big Story / Snack

SUPPLIES: Laugh and Grow 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 hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Acts in the Bible."

[Read pages 392-397 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.](#)

Circle Time: Air Power Review

SUPPLIES: hair dryer, table tennis ball

We're going to play with air power again to review God's big story. This is a hair dryer. If I turn it on, it will blow out air. Watch what happens when I put this table tennis ball on top of it. Place the table tennis ball on top of the vent of the hair dryer. (Note: it's important the table tennis ball is not dented for this to work properly.) Turn the hair dryer on a cool setting. Watch as the ball appears to float in the air above the hair dryer. **You can hold the hair dryer and try to keep the ball in the air. If the ball falls while you are holding it, I will ask you a question. We can't see the air, but we can see its power holding the ball in the air. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can experience His power working in our lives.** If you don't have access to a hair dryer, you can simply blow the ball on a table or on the floor so the kids can see how the air we blow can move the ball.

Leader Tip: To take this demonstration to the next level, try using a box fan and a beach ball instead of a hair dryer and a table tennis ball. Kids can take turns placing the ball on top of the fan and seeing how long it will stay.

Let kids take turns holding the hair dryer. If the ball falls, ask one of the review questions below.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who was put in prison for sharing their faith in today's story?** *(Paul and Silas)*
- **What did Paul and Silas do while they were in prison?** *(prayed and sang)*
- **What powerful thing happened after Paul and Silas prayed and sang?** *(an earthquake)*
- **God used an earthquake to free Paul and Silas. Did they run away? Why do you think they didn't?** *(No, they stayed in the prison so the jailer wouldn't get in trouble, and they told him about Jesus.)*
- **If you had been with Paul and Silas, would you have sung songs and prayed? Why or why not?**
- **When have you seen the Holy Spirit's power at work in your life?** *(If the kids need help thinking of answers, share a time when the Holy Spirit has given you wisdom during a problem, revealed something from the Bible to you, or given you courage during a hard time.)*
- **What is a situation you're in that is hard? God can help you with anything!**

The Holy Spirit is so powerful that He caused an earthquake to break open the prison doors and loosen the prisoners' chains! The Holy Spirit also does things that we can't see, such as helping us become more like Jesus by changing how we think and act. Let's pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts as He did in the jailer's so we can become more like Jesus. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"

PRAYER TIME:

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to ask the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts to be more like Jesus.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Chains

SUPPLIES: colored paper, scissors (prep only), stapler, coloring utensils, trash can, tape (optional)

Ahead of time, cut colored paper into paper strips (about 1" x 8.5" each), enough for each kid to have one, plus some extras.

"Today we learned that the Holy Spirit is powerful! He is strong enough to help us with our biggest problems and loving enough to make us more like Jesus. We're going to spend some time thinking about times when we need the Holy Spirit's help. For example, you might have trouble being kind to your brother or sister, but the Holy Spirit can help you!"

Leader Tip: Kids might need help thinking of things that they need the Holy Spirit's help with. Give them several examples of things they might be facing (such arguments with siblings, scary dreams, following rules, etc.).

Hand out a strip of paper to each kid. **We're going to draw pictures on our strips of paper that remind us of something we need the Holy Spirit's help with.** Give a personal example of something you could use the Holy Spirit's help with (age appropriate), then give the kids time to draw on their strips. Once they're done, gather them together and explain to kids that they are going to make a paper chain by linking the strips of paper together. Demonstrate this by stapling (or taping) together the two ends of a paper strip. Then take a second strip, push it through the loop created by the first strip and attach the two ends of the second together. Start the chain by adding a few loops before the kids start adding loops. **We're going to take turns adding a loop to this chain.** Continue until each child has added her loop to the chain.

Now that we've created this chain, let's stand up and hold our chain in front of us. Each kid can hold one part of the chain. **We might not be in prison chains like Paul and Silas were in God's big story, but sometimes difficult situations in our lives can feel like chains around us. But the Holy Spirit has the power to break any chain in our lives. We don't always understand why things happen or why some things are hard for us, but God is always with us and is more powerful than any situation! You can rip apart your loop of the chain as a reminder that the Holy Spirit is powerful and gives freedom!"**

Encourage kids to clean up what's left of the chains and throw the scraps in the trash.

Closing Game: This or That?

SUPPLIES: rope, painter's tape (optional)

Lay out a rope on the ground in your room or use painter's tape to create a line on the floor. Have kids straddle the line, with one foot on each side. Stand at the end of the line so the kids are facing you.

"We are going to play a game of 'This or That?'" In this game, you will have to decide if you think

"this" (point to one side of the line) **or** **"that"** (point to the other side of the line) **is more powerful.**

Make It Inclusive! Kids who can't jump can toss a beanbag to the side they choose.

If you think "this" is more powerful, you will jump to this side of the line. If you think "that" is more powerful, you will jump to that side of the line". Call out the following items or come up with your own and encourage kids to jump to the side of the line that represents their choice. Motion to the correct side as you read each choice until kids get the hang of it.

- Kitten or lion
- Tornado or thunderstorm
- Someone who's mean or the Holy Spirit
- Baby or an adult
- Train or a car
- The Holy Spirit or something that scares you
- pudding or an earthquake
- A dog or an elephant
- A fight with a friend or the Holy Spirit