

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!

Object Lesson: Balloon Power

Activity: Powerful or Not

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Escape!

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Object Lesson: 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!

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Gather kids together around the table and show them an uninflated balloon and the table tennis ball. Set the tennis ball on the table in front of you. Blow up the balloon with air but do not tie it.

Welcome! This balloon is filled with air! What will happen if I let go of the bottom of the balloon?

Allow the kids to respond. **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 are learning 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!

Be sure to keep the balloon out of the reach of kids at all times and place it where they can't reach it when you complete this activity.

Activity: Powerful or Not

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Powerful or Not? Sheet

Before the kids arrive, print out the Powerful or Not? Sheet and cut each picture apart so you have six separate pictures to use.

When something is powerful, it is strong and mighty. It can do big things. Let's look at some pictures and see whether we think they are powerful or not. Show each picture and have kids say whether each thing is powerful or not. You can explain why you think some of the pictures are powerful to help kids understand what it means to be powerful. **We'll learn in today's story about the One who has the most power—God! We'll learn how two people experienced the Holy Spirit's power!**

Our Wonder Truth today is THE HOLY SPIRIT IS POWERFUL.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—Hold arms up and burst them out to your sides.

IS POWERFUL—Flex muscles.



Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we're learning that the Holy Spirit is powerful. Let's sing a song about the Holy Spirit.

Play songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, blocks, toy people (2)

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

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Paul. Encourage the kids to say, "Paul." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Paul!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the Script provided.

Before you begin, build a simple house shape out of blocks. Set two toy people nearby.

In the part of God's big story we're learning about today, Jesus already went up to heaven. Then the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers. The Holy Spirit is God.

One of Jesus' followers was named Paul. 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 to tell more people about Jesus.

Let's pretend these two toy people are Paul and his friend. Let's pretend they are traveling to Philippi. Make the toy people pretend to walk toward the building you built earlier.

God did amazing things through Paul and his friends! With the power of the Holy Spirit, people were saved and healed. Some people in the town were not happy. They did not want people to listen to Paul and his friends. They put Paul and his friend Silas in jail.

Place the two toy people inside the building you built earlier.

The jailer in charge of the prison guarded Paul and Silas and 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.

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

Knock over the blocks so the building falls down and the toy people are free.

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

The jailer was scared when he saw the doors open. He thought everyone had run away and he would get in trouble. But everyone was there! Paul and Silas told him about Jesus, and he believed in Jesus.

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

Paul and Silas were set free.

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 the jailer trusted in Jesus. The Holy Spirit was still at work. The Holy Spirit is powerful.

Prayer and Blessing

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.

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

Activity: Escape!

SUPPLIES: blanket

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Gather kids together and have them stand on the blanket. **While Paul and Silas were in jail, they sang songs to God.** Let's pretend we are like Paul and Silas and sing a song to God. Sing a simple song of "Jesus Loves Me" or use a song from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) to sing along to. **Great job singing to God. Now you can escape. When I say, "Go," everyone can run or move off the blanket.** Invite the kids to hold an edge of the blanket and shake it like an earthquake. **Ready, set, go!** Play several rounds.