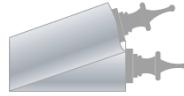




CHURCH EDUCATION

The Holy Bible
The Book of Mormon



'...and they shall become one in thine hand.' Ezekiel 37.17

LESSON TITLE

Paul and Silas in Prison

UNIT 6 – Evidence of Authority and Establishing the Church

GRADES 1-3

HOLY BIBLE

Acts 16:25,26, “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bands were loosed.”

THE BOOK OF MORMON

Helaman 12:12, “Yea, by the power of his voice, do the foundations rock, even to the very center.”

OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

- Act out the account of Paul and Silas and the fortune teller, Acts 16:16-34.
- Identify that Paul and Silas were faithful in a difficult circumstance.
- Recognize how God was faithful toward Paul and Silas
- Recall God’s love for all people

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What behavior do Paul and Silas witness that displease them? What kind of spirit is controlling the woman?
- What does Paul do to free the woman from the evil spirit? Why are Paul and Silas punished for helping the woman?
- How do we know that Paul and Silas do not regret freeing the woman from the evil spirit? How do praying and singing hymns in prison demonstrate the faith of Paul and Silas?
- How are Paul and Silas freed from prison? Why does God free Paul and Silas from prison?
- Who desires to be saved because of what they witnessed? How does the story end happily?

TEACHER NOTES

40-minute lesson

To prepare for this lesson, study the scriptural references listed in **OBJECTIVES**.

Q = Teacher asks question

Note: The Church of Jesus Christ uses the Authorized King James Version of The Holy Bible and The Book of Mormon published by The Church

MATERIALS

Holy Bible and Book of Mormon

Task: [Paul and Silas in Prison-Activity/Play](#) View Resource for list of materials and preparation.

Song: [I Go to the Rock](#)

PROCEDURE

Motivation/Introduction (3 minutes)

Engage students in a discussion about prisons, e.g., what they know about them, have they seen one.

Q: Who knows what a prison is? For what are prisons used?

Q: Have you seen a prison? How would you describe it?

Q: Can you imagine someone going to prison for preaching God's word?

Goals: Act out the account of Paul and Silas and the fortune teller.

Identify that Paul and Silas were faithful in a difficult circumstance.

Recognize how God was faithful toward Paul and Silas

Recall God's love for all people.

Lesson Development (30-35 minutes)

1. Introduce Paul and Silas and share a retelling of the account with the fortune teller (See Story Map). Use the jail and puppets as props when telling the story (See Task: Paul and Silas in Prison-Activity/Play).
2. Students act out the account.
3. Discuss Essential Questions
4. Students and teacher share a time when God helped them.
5. Song: Students sing, "I Go to the Rock."

Story Map: Paul, Silas, and the Fortune Teller

Paul lived during the days of Jesus. He traveled many places telling people about Jesus and teaching them how to please God. During one of his trips to a place called Philippi, Paul took his friend Silas. When they arrived, they saw a girl who was a fortune teller. A fortune teller uses evil power to predict the future. Some men hired this girl to make money by telling people their fortune.

The fortune teller follows Paul and Silas and interferes with their preaching. They recognize that an evil spirit is troubling her, and they command the evil spirit to come out of her in the name of Jesus. The girl is set free from the evil spirit.

The men who hired the fortune teller become very angry with Paul and Silas for removing her powers. They start shouting, "Put Paul and Silas in jail." They brought Paul and Silas to the judge who ordered them to be beaten and thrown in prison.

Prison is a terrible place to be, but Paul and Silas are not afraid because they know Jesus will help them. They pray and sing hymns to God all night. At midnight, something wonderful happens! There is a great earthquake and all the prison doors open!

The man who guarded Paul and Silas in prison thought they escaped, and he fears that he will get into a lot of trouble. Paul cried out to him in the dark, "We're still here!" The guard was so happy. He led them outside. He is so amazed, he asks them, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas tell him to believe in Jesus.

The prison guard takes Paul and Silas to his home. He washes their wounds and gives them something to eat. Paul and Silas tell the guard and his family to believe in Jesus to be saved. The whole family believes in Jesus and are baptized. In the morning, Paul and Silas depart in peace and travel to other cities to teach people about Jesus.

Key words: Evidence, authority, establish, church, Paul, Silas