

## THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST

**Week Eighteen - For the Sake of Others****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*This week covers all of chapter 16, which is a collection of events that happened on Paul and Silas' missionary journey. Luke, the author, chose to highlight stories of several people in various roles in the world who all came to Jesus at a cost. Pray for our kids to see that 1) all people are welcome in Jesus' kingdom, and 2) we must give up our own kingdom and confess Jesus is King.*

- **Big Idea:** We give of ourselves for the sake of others, because Jesus gave all of himself for our sake.

**Starter****Evidences of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.
- **Ask:** What is a chain for? What does it do? What do you think we mean when we sing things like "My chains are gone, I've been set free"? What have we been chained to? What does Jesus set us free from?  
Did it cost Jesus anything to do this?

**Sing Together**

## Story - from Acts 16

Paul and Silas went to share the good news of Jesus throughout the world. On their journey, they met Timothy, a young man whose mother was Jewish and father was Greek. Paul wanted him to join their mission, but first had him circumcised, as was custom for Jews. They didn't want anything to distract from their message or offend the Jewish listeners, since Timothy's father was Greek. Timothy did not have to do this, but he willingly made a sacrifice for the sake of people hearing about Jesus.

They planned to head to Asia, but the Holy Spirit kept them from going. They went down to the seaport Troas, where I, Luke, joined them. That night Paul had a dream: A man stood on the shore and called across the sea, *"Come over to Macedonia and help us!"* So that's exactly where we went.

We traveled to Philippi, the main city in Macedonia, and stayed several days. On the Sabbath, we went down to the river where there was a prayer meeting. A woman there, Lydia, was a wealthy dealer in expensive fabrics. As she listened to our message of Jesus, the Lord gave her a trusting heart—and she believed! After she and her household were baptized, she urged us to come stay in her home. She sacrificed her comfort, home, and expenses to take care of us on our mission.

One day, on our way to prayer, a slave girl ran into us. She had a spirit in her that allowed her to psychically read others' fortunes, which made a lot of money for the people who owned her. She followed Paul around calling everyone's attention to us by yelling out, *"These men are working for the Most High God, telling you how to be saved!"*

She did this for days until Paul, finally fed up with her, turned and commanded the spirit that possessed her, *"Out! In the name of Jesus Christ, get out of her!"* And it was gone, just like that.

When her owners saw they lost their way of making money, they went after Paul and Silas, roughed them up, and dragged them into the town square. Then they were brought to court with the accusation, *"These men are disturbing the peace—attacking our Roman law and order with their dangerous Jewish ways."*

The judges had Paul and Silas thrown into jail. At about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing to God when suddenly there was a huge earthquake! The prison shook, doors flew open, and the prisoners were loose.

When the guard saw this and assumed all the prisoners had escaped, he pulled out his sword and was about to take his life because he had failed to keep the prisoners. But Paul stopped him: *"Don't do that! We're all still here! Nobody's run away!"*

The guard was amazed so he led them out of the jail and asked, *"Tell me, what do I have to do to be saved?"* They said, *"Put your entire trust in Jesus. Then you'll live as you were meant to live—and everyone in your house included!"*

The guard brought them to his home and dressed their wounds as they told his entire household about Jesus. The entire family was baptized!

At morning, the court judges sent officers with the instructions, *“Release these men.”* The guard gave Paul the message, *“The judges sent word that you’re free to go on your way. Congratulations! Go in peace!”*

But Paul wouldn’t budge. He told the officers,

*“They beat us up in public and threw us in jail, and we’re Roman citizens! And now they want to get us out of the way without anyone knowing? If they want us out of here, let them come themselves and lead us out in broad daylight.”*

When the judges heard this they panicked. They had no idea Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. They hurried over and apologized, personally escorted them from the jail, and then asked them if they would please leave the city. Walking out of the jail, Paul and Silas went straight to Lydia’s house, saw their friends again, encouraged them in the faith, and then went on their way.

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- ▶ What sacrifice did Timothy make to share Jesus with others?
- ▶ Luke, the author of Acts, joined up with Paul in this chapter. He was a doctor and an important person in his community. What do you think he sacrificed to come on this mission?
- ▶ What did Lydia give and sacrifice when she came to believe Jesus and invited Paul and Silas and the group into her home?
- ▶ What did the slave owners lose when Paul cast out the spirit from their slave girl?
- ▶ Paul and Silas could have told the Roman officials they were Roman citizens from the beginning and probably would have never been beaten and thrown into prison. Why do you think they waited until they were set free to share this? What did they sacrifice in order for the prison guard to hear about Jesus?
- ▶ Why do you think all of these people were able to sacrifice something big for the sake of others hearing about Jesus?
- ▶ What has Jesus sacrificed in order for us to have the good news and be saved?
- ▶ What might the Spirit be calling you to sacrifice for the sake of others?

### Breakout Time

#### Pray:

God, thank you for the good news of salvation and life through Jesus’ sacrifice. Spirit, help us to give ourselves for the sake of others knowing Jesus too. Amen.

#### Craft:

- Use the coloring sheet attached
- Use different colored construction paper to make a chain by cutting strips and taping them together in loops.

### BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Bless** rhythm. Who has a need around you that you or your family can help meet? It may even be as simple as spending time with someone who needs a friend!



# THE ADVENTURES OF PAUL PRISON BREAK

Acts 16:31

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,  
you and your household."

