

Bible background

Acts 16:16-40

Aim of lesson

To show Paul and Silas' confidence in God.

Preparation required

You will need a dice and counters.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Set the background by describing the healing of the maid by Paul and the anger of the crowds, which led to their imprisonment, following a beating. They were being treated very unfairly.
2. Tell the children how Paul and Silas were put into stocks, deep in the prison and yet they prayed and sang so that the other prisoners heard them.
3. Vividly describe the earthquake and its effects on the doors and the prisoners' chains.
4. Tell the children how this affected the man in charge of the prison, who wanted to kill himself rather than face the consequences of losing his prisoners.
5. Imagine how the prison keeper must have felt to hear Paul's voice in the darkness. Explain what followed and how this led to the conversion of the man and his family.
6. Tell the children what happened in the morning and how the magistrates were made to come and release Paul and Silas, from where they went to Lydia's home.

Alternative activities

1. Role-play. Make a prison from furniture or large cardboard boxes or drape a blanket over a table. Help the children to choose some songs or hymns to sing inside. (Be aware of children who don't want to go in a cardboard box)
2. Build a prison out of Lego/blocks/Plasticine or a box and use Plasticine or play figures to be Paul, Silas, the other prisoners and the jailer.
3. Try this action song to the tune of 'Farmer's in his den'. Sit in a circle on the floor and hold hands.
Verse 1: We are in the jail (*hold hands and look sad*)
We are in the jail
Oh no! Oh no!
We are in the jail.
Verse 2: We're singing praise to God (*rock gently from side to side and smile*)
We're singing praise to God
Praise Him! Praise Him!
We're singing praise to God.
Verse 3: The floor begins to shake (*shake & wobble!*)
The floor begins to shake
Earthquake! Earthquake!
The floor begins to shake.
Verse 4: Our chains have all come loose (*clap hands & stamp feet*)
Our chains have all come loose
Hurray! Hurray!
Our chains have all come loose.
Verse 5: The doors are open wide (*hands in front of body, then move apart*)
The doors are open wide
But we'll stay inside (*quietly, with finger on lips*)
The doors are open wide (*hands in front of body, then move apart*)

Relevance to the children's lives

When should we show we are happy and confident despite our circumstances?

Prayer

Encourage the children to pray when they are in difficult situations.

Verse

'About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God' Acts 16:25.

Song

The Lord Loves Me

Musical notation for the song 'The Lord Loves Me'. The first staff shows the melody with chords F, D7, F, D7, F, C. The second staff shows the bass line with chords Bb, C, Dm, Gm, C, C7, F.

The Lord loves me
Wherever I am he can see
When I am afraid, I remember
The Lord loves me.

Music: cop con.