

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 262: PAUL & SILAS ARE IMPRISONED**  
**ACTS 16:16-40**

One day we were going to the place for prayer, and a servant girl met us. She had a spirit in her that gave her the power to tell what would happen in the future. By doing this she earned a lot of money for the men who owned her. She started following Paul and the rest of us around. She kept shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how you can be saved!" She continued doing this for many days. This bothered Paul, so he turned and said to the spirit, "By the power of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" Immediately, the spirit came out. When the men who owned the servant girl saw this, they realized that they could no longer use her to make money. So they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the public square to meet with the authorities. They brought Paul and Silas before the Roman officials and said, "These men are Jews, and they are making trouble in our city. They are telling people to do things that are not right for us as Romans to do." The whole crowd turned against Paul and Silas. The officials tore the clothes off both men and ordered that they be beaten with rods. They were beaten severely and thrown into jail. The officials told the jailer, "Guard them very carefully!" When the jailer heard this special order, he put Paul and Silas far inside the jail and bound their feet between large blocks of wood. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so strong that it shook the foundation of the jail. All the doors of the jail opened, and the chains on all the prisoners fell off. The jailer woke up and saw that the jail doors were open. He thought that the prisoners had already escaped, so he got his sword and was ready to kill himself. But Paul shouted, "Don't hurt yourself! We are all here!" The jailer told someone to bring a light. Then he ran inside and, shaking with fear, fell down in front of Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" They said to him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved--you and all who live in your house." So Paul and Silas told the message of the Lord to the jailer and all the people who lived in his house. It was late at night, but the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Then the jailer and all his people were baptized. After this the jailer took Paul and Silas home and gave them some food. All the people were very happy because they now believed in God. The next morning the Roman officials sent

some soldiers to tell the jailer, "Let these men go free." The jailer said to Paul, "The officials have sent these soldiers to let you go free. You can leave now. Go in peace." But Paul said to the soldiers, "Those officials did not prove that we did anything wrong, but they beat us in public and put us in jail. And we are Roman citizens. Now they want us to go away quietly. No, they must come here themselves and lead us out!" The soldiers told the officials what Paul said. When they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were afraid. So they came and told them they were sorry. They led them out of the jail and asked them to leave the city. But when Paul and Silas came out of the jail, they went to Lydia's house. They saw some of the believers there and encouraged them. Then they left.

# PAUL & SILAS ARE IMPRISONED

(ACTS 16:16-40)



“They were beaten severely and thrown into jail. The officials told the jailer, “Guard them very carefully!”  
**ACTS 16:23**

## 262. PAUL & SILAS ARE IMPRISONED

### ACTS 16:16-40

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved....'"*     **ACTS 16:31**

#### **Review Questions**

##### **True or False**

1. There was a girl that followed Paul and them men, yelling out, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how you can be saved!"
2. This did not bother Paul, so he let her follow them around.
3. Her masters saw that they were going to lose a lot of money, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.
4. The whole crowd turned and put their best clothes on Paul and Silas ordered that they be given a feast.
5. They put Paul and Silas in jail and the officials told the jailer to guard them very carefully.

#### **Questions**

1. What did Paul do to the girl that was following them around?
2. What did the girl's masters do to Paul and Silas?
3. When Paul and Silas were in jail, what did they start doing? Were they afraid and crying?
4. What happened while they were singing and praising God?
5. When the chains fell off all the prisoners, did they run away?
6. What did the jailer think happened to the prisoners? What was he about to do?
7. Did the jailer get saved? What about the people in his house?
8. When the officials said to let Paul and Silas go free, where did they go?
9. What did they do at Lydia's house?

## Lesson 262 Craft/Activity

### My Pet

Supplies:

Construction Paper

Glue

Sequins

Pipe Cleaners

Popsicle Sticks

Ribbons

Cotton Balls

Googley eyes or beads or sequins or buttons for eyes

Markers & scissors

Put out a piece of construction paper for each child in your class. Give them cotton balls, pipe cleaners, sequins, buttons, and whatever might make great and interesting pets. Let each child create his own pet (remind them that the pets must fit on the paper, so they will not become giant monster pets). Let them put down some pretend food for their pets, and maybe decorate their little houses.

Ask your students how their pets will get food or a bed to sleep in or toys to play with.

Some might say that their pet does not need anything; some might say that they will provide these things for their pets.

Explain that just like they are providers and caretakers of their pets, God is our provider and caretaker, but He never forgets anything! His eyes are always on us, His creation. We need never worry that He will not keep His word; **God is always in control**, even when things look out of control.

### Mystery Message

Write each word of the memory verse on a separate piece of white paper with the edge of a bar of soap. Pass out the papers to the class. Let them discover the mystery words by shading over the sheet of paper with the sides of their pencil leads.

If your class is old enough, let them organize themselves into a line putting the memory verse in correct order. For younger children draw happy faces or simple shapes for them to “discover.”

Explain that God is in control even if we cannot see what the end result will be; all we have to do is obey, just like this class did as they shaded in their papers.

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the perfect control the Lord has over every situation. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.