

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Easter 7
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Acts Readings – Track One

Scripture: Acts 16:16-34

Background

Easter is one big celebration! It is a time for us to remember the Resurrection and that Jesus Christ our Lord is not dead but he is alive! We do it up big on Easter Sunday, but sometimes it is easy for us to forget that the celebration keeps going right up to Pentecost. It is also a time of year when we hope for Spring, if it has not already taken root in our neighborhood. We long for new life of plants and animals. It is a time for us to remember how special the gift of life is.

A Notation for This Week's Story

Today we hear how Saint Paul gets arrested with his friend Silas for healing a slave girl. The owners did not like this healing because it meant she could no longer make them money by telling fortunes. Paul and Silas pray and sing hymns while in prison reminding themselves that God is with them and they are not alone.

Theme: God is With Us

Before Class: Cut out strips of construction paper. Set out strips of paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks and other craft supplies.

Beginning: Good morning everyone and Happy Easter! It is so good to have you with us this morning. Today we are going to hear a story about how Saint Paul and his friend Silas get put in jail. We will learn what they do to remember that they are not alone, but that God is with them. Have you ever felt like you were alone or scared? Allow students to share.

Opening Prayer: Jesus we thank you always being with us. Help us to remember your presence and love, even when we feel alone or scared. Amen.

The Story: Acts 16:16-34

Read the story from a children's bible or tell it like this:

While traveling with Paul and Silas to the place of prayer, a woman who was a slave ran into us. She was someone who had the spirit for telling the future. She began to follow Paul and Silas around and yelling out, "These men are working for the Most High God and are telling us about salvation!" She did this for a few days and finally, Paul turned and commanded the spirit that possessed her to come out. He said, "In the name of Jesus Christ, get out of her!" And the spirit was gone.

The slaves owners were very upset that they could no longer make money off of her telling the future, so they found them and dragged them to the police telling the police they had been disturbing the peace and were not following the laws. The police arrested them and threw them into a jail cell with very heavy protection so they could not escape.

In the middle of the night, Paul and Silas were praying and singing when an earthquake hit the prison. The jail shook and all the doors flew open. All the prisoners were loose. When the prison guard saw this he thought that all the prisoners had left and was very upset. Paul said to him, “Do not harm yourself! We are all still here.” The prison guard was amazed and knew that because of their prayer and singing God had answered their prayers. He asked Paul, “What do I have to do to be saved?” Paul said to him, “Put your trust in Jesus and live as you were meant to live.” Paul told the prison guard and the other prisoners all about God. That night the prison guard and all his family were baptized and he invited Paul and all the disciples into his house for a meal. He rejoiced that he had come to believe in God.

Reflection Questions:

- What were Paul & Silas doing when they were in jail? (praying and singing hymns)
- What do you think the other prisoners thought about that? (interested, strange, wanted to join)
- What do you do when things are tough to remember God? (pray, sing, talk to parents, etc.)

Activity:

Those were some really good answers. We have lots of ways to remember that God is with us. Let’s make a paper chain that will help us remember the story of Saint Paul and Silas and that God is always there for us!

Invite the children to take 5-10 strips and decorate them. Glue the strips into a paper chain to help them remember the story of Paul and Silas as well.

Getting Closure: Wow, you all made some really great paper chains! Allow students to share their creations if time allow. Do you think that you might be able to remind someone that God is always there for them this week? How? (Allow students to share their answers) Jesus never leaves us and we get share that Good News with everyone!

Closing Prayer: God, thank you for always being near to us, especially when we feel alone or are scared. Help us to share with others your love and presence this week. Amen.

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