

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Easter 7**  
**Lesson Plans for Older 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**

With Paul and Silas, we came to Philippi in Macedonia, a Roman colony, and, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and

ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer 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 take make something that will help us to remember that even when times are tough, God is always there.

Invite the children to write one method of remembering God is with them per strip of paper. Students should make 5-10 strips and decorate them. Glue or staple 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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