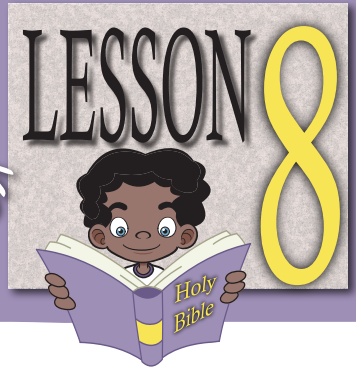


Paul and Silas



New Testament 3
Part 2: New Testament Teams (Cohorts)

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 15:22-17:14; 18:5; 2 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:12

MEMORY WORK:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice” (Philippians 4:4).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Rejoice in the Lord Always, and Again I Say Rejoice”](#)
- [“Why Can't I Be Happy All the Time?”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Apostles & N.T. Teams](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Use smart foam sheets to cut out purple shirt and dress patterns (two, identical patterns for each child—representing a front and a back). Punch holes around the edges and using yarn, let the kids “sew” the front and back pieces together to make “garments” with Lydia's purple cloth.
- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [Map of Paul's Evangelistic Trips](#) (provided in activity sheets)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Even in bad situations or times of trouble, I know that God is with me and will help me if I trust Him.



LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week we studied about Paul and Barnabas. This week we are going to study about Paul and his friend Silas. They traveled around teaching others about Jesus.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson. Has anyone ever made fun of you because you believe in Jesus? Has anyone ever given you a hard time for choosing to do what's right? How does that make you feel? Paul did a lot of good when he traveled around teaching about Jesus, but not everyone liked it. Today, we are going to learn what Paul and Silas did when they were put in prison for doing a good thing.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. The apostle Paul took three long trips (journeys) throughout much of the New Testament world, preaching about Jesus. We often call these trips "missionary journeys."
2. Silas [also called Silvanus] was a Roman citizen like Paul (Acts 16:37) and a member of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:22,32). When Paul and Barnabas were sent to Antioch by the elders at Jerusalem, Silas traveled with them. After Paul and Barnabas left Antioch, Silas stayed so that he could continue to encourage the Christians there. After Barnabas and Paul decided not to travel together, Silas went with Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 15:40-41).
3. In Acts 16, the Lord spoke to Paul in a **vision** and told him to go to Macedonia (a Greek province) to preach the Gospel. He and Silas went to the city of Philippi and learned that some Jews were gathered **at the river** to worship. They went to the river and found a woman named Lydia and her household praying. Lydia was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira who had apparently come to Philippi to sell the expensive **purple** cloth she had made. Paul and Silas taught her about Jesus, and they all were baptized into Christ (became Christians).

NOTES:

Vision: a special dream from God; God used visions sometimes to give information that a prophet or preacher would not otherwise have known

"at the river": There apparently was no synagogue in Philippi where Lydia and her household could worship. Traditionally, the establishment of a synagogue required at least ten Jewish men in the town. If there were not 10 men, the faithful usually met at an outdoor location (preferably near a river or stream) that was known in the community.

Purple dye was very expensive because it was made from murex shellfish or mollusks. Because of the cost of making purple fabric, it was used mainly in clothing for royalty. Thyatira was well known for its purple cloth.



**WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN, SAVE THE REMAINDER OF THE LESSON FOR
WEDNESDAY NIGHT:**

4. As Paul and Silas went to the river, a young slave girl followed them. She was “**demon possessed**” and made money for her owners by telling fortunes for people. Paul was very annoyed by the demon and using the authority Christ had given him, told the demon to leave the girl alone. The demon left the girl. When the slave girl’s owners found out they could no longer make money from the girl’s abilities, they brought Paul and Silas to the city officials and had them arrested.



Demon possessed: Demons were invisible, evil spirits who had the ability, in Bible times, to control (“possess”) people. They had superhuman knowledge and abilities. Many times the result of a demon possessing a person was physical or mental illness. Sometimes it was assumed that illness or demon possession was the result of personal sin; Jesus made it very clear that was not the case (John 9). It was, however, the Devil’s way of taking advantage of someone and creating opportunities to display his own power and agenda.



NOTES: Paul endured being beaten this way three times—2 Corinthians 11:23-25.



Stocks were wooden frames with holes cut in them for prisoner’s hands and/or feet, and sometimes even the neck. It was a very painful and uncomfortable way of being restrained, especially after being beaten.

5. To humiliate (embarrass) Paul and Silas, the officials stripped them of their clothes and beat them with rods (“laid many stripes on them”—Acts 16:23). Since both men were Roman citizens, it was against the law to beat them or put them in jail without a trial. The jailer (the keeper of the prison) was strictly ordered to make sure these two prisoners did not escape. So, he put them in the deepest, darkest part of the prison (the “inner prison”) and put their feet in **stocks**.
6. Rather than feeling sorry for themselves, Paul and Silas chose to praise God, even in those terrible conditions. They prayed and sang songs of praise, and the other prisoners listened to them. About midnight, while they were still singing, a powerful earthquake shook the prison. The doors were miraculously opened, and all the prisoners’ chains came off!
7. The jailer had fallen asleep. When he woke up and saw that the prison doors were opened, he assumed that they had escaped and was very frightened. His error would cost him his life. Since Romans considered suicide more acceptable and honorable than execution, the jailer was about to kill himself. But Paul called out to him and let him know that not one prisoner had escaped. The jailer was so grateful that he took Paul and Silas to his home and took care of their wounds from the beating they had received. After studying with the jailer and his household, Paul and Silas baptized all of them into Christ. Once again, a miracle proved that the things taught about Jesus were God-given Truth.



HISTORICAL NOTE: According to Polybius, Roman guards who were found sleeping while on duty were punished by the bastinado (fustuarium). Fustuarium was capital punishment where the soldiers of the legion would beat the man with sticks and stones until he died, unless he fled the country. If he fled, he could not return to his country, and his family could not receive him. “Thus, owing to the extreme severity and inevitableness of the penalty, the night watches of the Roman army are most scrupulously kept.” [*The Histories of Polybius*, Book VI, http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Polybius/6*.html, pp. 349-355,564-565]

8. Like other followers of Jesus, Paul and Silas were persecuted (mistreated because of their faith, and their efforts to tell others about Jesus). Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi to encourage them during hard times. Many of them must have remembered what had happened to Paul and Silas the first time they came to Philippi. Paul told them, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say rejoice...I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (Philippians 4:4, 11). No matter how badly they were treated, Paul and Silas had such great faith in the Lord and believed so much in what they were doing, that they could even sing praises to God in prison. Jesus promised us that if we will trust Him like Paul and Silas did, even in times of trouble, He will bless us (Matthew 5:10-12).
9. After Philippi, Paul and Silas worked in Thessalonica, then Berea. When Paul was forced to leave, he went on to Athens, leaving Silas in Berea for a while. He joined Paul again in Corinth. Luke and Timothy were also traveling with these great partners.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Paul and Silas Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Make a hop-scotch grid on the floor with masking tape. Let the children take turns tossing a beanbag onto a square on the grid, jumping to that square, and then answering a question about the lesson. If the child answers the question correctly, he can toss the bag again, jump to the square where it lands, and try another question. He can continue until he misses a question.
- Paper sack puppets of jailer
- Make a jail out of a piece of poster board (cut out spaces between the “bars” of the jail). Have several pictures of Paul and Silas, write questions from the story on the back of each picture, and put them in the “jail” (i.e., behind/under the poster board). If the children answer the question correctly, they take the man out of the jail.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Make small dolls of Paul and Silas using either pipe cleaners or small clothespins. A jail can be made using small shoeboxes and pasting strips of black construction paper over the opening of the box, making enough room to place the dolls.
- Print maps of [Paul’s evangelistic trips](#) for children to track each week, using highlighters (provided in activity sheets).

- “[Mistreated for Preaching](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Paul and Silas Meet a Special Woman](#)” activity sheet (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Paul and Silas Traveling Together Maze](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[What a Time to Sing! Word Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Print maps of [Paul’s evangelistic trips](#) for children to track each week, using highlighters (provided in activity sheets).
- “[Mistreated for Preaching](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Paul and Silas Meet a Special Woman](#)” activity sheet (provided in activity sheets)
- “[What a Time to Sing! Word Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Paul and Silas Traveling Together Maze](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read *Jailhouse Rock* Arch book, by Glynis Belec

SONGS:

“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*
(Can be sung in rounds)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. (2X)
Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice. (2X)
Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.

“WHY CAN’T I BE HAPPY ALL THE TIME?” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Betty Holmes
(Tune: “Be Careful Little Feet Where You Go”)

Why can’t I be happy all the time? (2X)
Why do I cry? Oh, please tell me why.
Why can’t I be happy all the time?

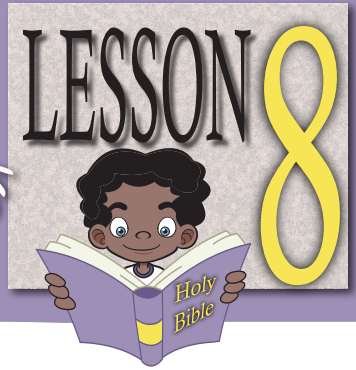
Is a rainbow made from just the sun? (2X)
It takes sunshine and rain, now the reason is plain.
It takes both smiles and tears to make **me** one!

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Paul and Silas



New Testament 3
Part 2: New Testament Teams (Cohorts)

WEDNESDAY EVENING

New Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 15:22-17:14; 18:5; 2 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:12

MEMORY WORK:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice” (Philippians 4:4).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Rejoice in the Lord Always, and Again I Say Rejoice”](#)
- [“Why Can't I Be Happy All the Time?”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
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- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [Map of Paul's Evangelistic Trips](#) (provided in activity sheets)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Even in bad situations or times of trouble, I know that God is with me and will help me if I trust Him.

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

[N.T. 3 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum web site)

Sunday, we learned about a group that was worshipping by the river and how Paul and Silas taught them about Jesus and they were baptized. Tonight, we are going to learn about what Paul and Silas did when they were thrown into prison for their work.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

[N.T. 3 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 3 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Continue the lesson from Sunday, starting on number 4.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE: (OLDER CHILDREN)

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 3 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Spend more time discussing Paul and Silas being beaten and put in jail and their reaction to that. They had done nothing wrong, but were being severely punished anyway.
3. Have students share a time when they were mistreated or felt rejected by someone. Discuss how they felt, what they did, and the end result. Emphasize how Jesus knows when we are hurting and is always there to take care of and make things better.
4. Read Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:18-20

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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