

Paul and Silas – a dramatized story found in Acts 16 v19-34

Jailer—That’s me!

Prison—Uh oh!

Earthquake—Whoa!

Prisoners—We’re bad men!

Girl—I’m free!

Paul and Silas—We follow Jesus!

Beaten—Ouch!

Magistrates—We are important people!

Stripped—Close your eyes!

Said—Talk to me!

Flogged—Hey, that hurt!

Singing—La, la, la!

Jesus—He’s the best!

Stocks—How am I supposed to sleep like this!

(Pause after the words in bold. These are the ones that cue the students’ part, which are indicated below.)

Narrator: In today’s Bible story, a man is going to give his life to Jesus and the reason he will is because he met two other men who were different because they lived for Jesus.

Narrator: Two men named Paul and Silas, who loved God and served God had been telling people about Jesus. They had travelled a long way for a long time, and they had just helped a slave girl, but helping her upset her owners. Now listen close and get ready to do your parts, and remember you may need to do your part more than once.

When the owners of the *slave girl (I’m free!)* realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized **Paul and Silas (We follow Jesus!)** and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the **magistrates (We are important people!)** and **said (Talk to me)**, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

The crowd joined in the attack against **Paul and Silas (We follow Jesus!)**, and the **magistrates (We are important people!)** ordered them to be **stripped (Close your eyes!) and beaten (Ouch!)**. After they had been severely **flogged (Hey, that hurt!)**, they were thrown into **prison (Uh oh!)**, and the **jailer (That’s me!)** was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the **stocks (How am I supposed to sleep like this!)**

About midnight **Paul and Silas (We follow Jesus!)** were praying and **singing (La, la, la)** hymns to God, and the other **prisoners (We’re bad men!)** were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent **earthquake (Whoa!)** that the foundations of the **prison (Uh oh!)** doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. The **jailer (That’s me!)** woke up, and when he saw the **prison (Uh oh!)** doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the **prisoners (We’re bad men!)** had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

The **jailer (That’s me!)** called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before **Paul and Silas (We follow Jesus!)**. He brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord **Jesus (He’s the best)**, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the **jailer (That’s me!)** took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The **jailer (That’s me!)** brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

Narrator : Even when bad things happen, God is with you and because He is with you not only can you have peace, you can also make the choice to rejoice.