



2

Paul's Second Journey

Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.

Key Passages

- Acts 16:11–15, 16:20–34

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how God used Paul in Lydia's life.
- Describe how God used Paul and Silas in jail to accomplish great things.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by working on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend.



Activity 1: Paul's Second Journey Class Notes

Students will fill out Paul's Second Journey Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

On Paul's second journey, Paul and Silas preached and taught about Jesus boldly to all those they met. In Philippi, Lydia and the jailer were transformed by the truth of the gospel and God's marvelous grace!



Activity 2: Four in a Row

Students will review the lesson by playing a game of Four in a Row.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



PAUL'S SECOND JOURNEY CLASS NOTES

- Print one Paul's Second Journey Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Paul's Second Journey Class Notes for each student
- Paul's Second Journey Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Memory Verse Poster
- Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster



FOUR IN A ROW

- Print one Four in a Row Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Prepare a 16-section square grid on the floor with masking tape.
- Cut 8 red circles and 8 black circles from red and black construction paper.
- Bring in one beanbag, rolled sock, or other appropriate item to toss for each team.

- Four in a Row Teacher Guide
- Masking tape
- 8 red and 8 black construction paper circles to mark four in a row
- Beanbag, rolled sock, or other appropriate item



Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

Paul's first missionary journey was over. He had answered God's call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. He and his companion Barnabas had traveled by boat and by foot to several cities in the region (Acts 13:4–14). They often went first to the synagogues in the cities (Acts 13:14). But when the Jewish people would not listen and believe (Acts 13:45), God sent them to teach the Gentiles who were happy to hear the truth (Acts 13:46–48). God even gave Paul the ability to perform signs and wonders as he preached so those who heard and saw would know that his message was truly of the Lord Most High (Acts 14:3). Still many did not believe the truth Paul taught, and he was quite often persecuted, run out of town (Acts 13:50), stoned, left for dead (Acts 14:19), and even mistaken for a pagan god (Acts 14:11–12)!

Paul and Barnabas finished their journey and returned to the church at Antioch. But it wasn't long before the Lord called on Paul again to make a second journey and preach the gospel to more people in more cities. Paul invited Barnabas to join him, but they disagreed over whether to take John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. They parted company, and Barnabas took John Mark and sailed to Cyprus, while Paul chose Silas to go with him on this second missionary journey (Acts 15:36–40). This journey would take them to the regions of Syria and Cilicia where they strengthened the churches that had already been established (Acts 15:41). When they came to the cities of Derbe and Lystra, the young man, Timothy, joined their party (Acts 16:1). And then in Troas, the physician Luke (author of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts) joined the party. By God's divine intervention, Paul was directed to travel to the region of Macedonia. He obeyed the Lord, and the gospel was spread to another part of the world—Greece and Europe. Their journey took them to Philippi, one of the foremost cities of that part of Macedonia (Acts 16:12).

It was in Philippi that God arranged for Paul to meet Lydia and other women. Paul told the women about Jesus Christ, and Lydia heard what he said. The Bible says that as she listened to Paul, the Lord opened her heart to heed the things she heard. Because of this providential encounter between Paul and Lydia, she and all her household believed and were baptized. She then persuaded Paul and his party to stay with her at her house (Acts 16:13–15).

Paul rarely escaped controversy, and it wasn't long

before he and Silas found themselves in trouble with the authorities in Philippi. They were accused of troubling the city and teaching customs that were unlawful. The authorities demanded they be beaten with rods and thrown into prison. A guard was placed over them, and their feet were placed in the stocks (Acts 16:20–24).

But we see in this incident how God works what looks like the worst possible scenario for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). As Paul and Silas sat in prison in stocks, after being beaten, they were praying and singing hymns to God. The Bible says the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, God caused an earthquake that opened all the doors of the cells and everyone's chains were loosed. The guard awoke, saw the situation, and assumed that the prisoners had escaped. To avoid the punishment he would face for his carelessness, he was about to kill himself! But Paul stopped him and assured him the prisoners had not escaped.

These were the events that brought this jailer to his knees as he asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Paul told the jailer the truth about the Lord. The jailer was transformed by the Word of God, cared for Paul and Silas, and was baptized (Acts 16:25–33).

Paul and Silas soon departed Philippi, leaving Timothy and Luke behind to care for these new believers. But their trip was not yet over. They still took opportunity to preach in Thessalonica, on to Berea, then to Athens. After Athens they went on to Corinth, then sailed to Ephesus, and from there headed home to Caesarea and to the church at Antioch (Acts 17–18:22).

Throughout this journey, Paul persevered through many trials. He went throughout the regions teaching and encouraging those who believed in Christ and helped to establish them in churches. He made many disciples from many different backgrounds. Paul understood the gospel. He knew that it alone is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes—both Jews and Greeks. He was not ashamed to profess his allegiance to His Savior, Jesus Christ, or afraid to present the gospel to all who would listen (Romans 1:16).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

This second missionary journey of Paul and Silas occurred sometime around AD 49–53. On this journey, Paul and his companions traveled about 3,000 miles,

by land and by sea, over a period of about three years. They visited many of the cities where they had previously started churches, and also went into new areas to preach the gospel. Information on some of the cities Paul visited follows.

Philippi

The city of Philippi was located in northern Greece, about 10 miles from the port city of Neapolis. The Via Egnatia road (linking Italy with Asia) ran straight through the city, giving it access to travelers as well as trade. Philippi apparently had only a small number of Jewish inhabitants and, therefore, no synagogue. Consequently, Sabbath worship was held outside the city on the Gangites River. Here Paul met and preached to Lydia, likely a Gentile, and other women. Lydia believed Paul's message and was baptized with members of her household. This was the first recorded European conversion to Christianity.

Lydia was a wealthy seller of purple fabric from Thyatira, a city noted as a great center for trade and industry. The city was especially noted for its trade guilds, including the guild of dyers. Lydia seems to have represented this industry in Philippi. While most purple dye of the first century was extracted from shellfish, the dye used at Thyatira was a vegetable dye that came from the madder root, which grew in abundance in the region.

Athens

Later on in his journey, Paul found himself in the city of Athens—a godless city given over to the worship of many false idols (Acts 17:16). The idols in Greece at the time would have included Demeter with statues of the goddess and her daughter. He would have seen statues of Poseidon hurling his trident, Athena, Zeus, Apollo, and Hermes. He may have visited the Sanctuary of the Mother of the Gods with her image. In the agora, the marketplace, the apostle would have seen the altar of Mercy and a bronze statue of Ptolemy. Other pagan sanctuaries in Athens were Sanctuary of the Dioscuri, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Sanctuary of Dionysus at the foot of the Acropolis, and many more. There was even a shrine to “the unknown god” (Acts 17:23). Wherever Paul turned, he encountered statues, temples, and shrines. It was this abundance of pagan gods that provoked his spirit (Acts 17:16).

In Athens, Paul proclaimed Christ not only in the synagogue but also in the marketplace day by day (Acts 17:17). People would meet each day in the marketplace to learn the latest news and to discuss all manner of subjects. Paul's bold preaching in the marketplace led to an invitation to speak at the Areopagus, or Mars' Hill (Acts

17:19). In Paul's day Mars' Hill was the meeting place of the main governing body of the city. It was here that Paul boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ and the gospel when he said, “God . . . commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30–31).

Corinth

After departing Athens, Paul headed to Corinth, the capital of the province of Achaia. Paul remained in Corinth for 18 months (Acts 18:9–11).

Paul's visit to Corinth came at a significant time for mission work. In AD 49, the Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome. Many found their way to Corinth. This is where Paul met the two Jewish refugees from Rome, Aquila and Priscilla. They were tentmakers like Paul. Aquila and Priscilla became key leaders of the young, Christian church in Corinth (Acts 18:1–12; 1 Corinthians 16:19).

During his time in Corinth, Paul wrote both letters to the Thessalonians—the first New Testament epistles Paul wrote. He had apparently heard of a number of serious misunderstandings and practical problems that had arisen in the Thessalonian church. So Paul wrote these letters to address these issues.

During this second missionary journey, Paul was violently resisted in many of the cities he visited. However, by God's grace he survived, and many church communities were established to the glory of God and the gospel.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, help us to learn from the four redeemed lives revealed in this lesson. Lydia had an open heart and eager faith. The jailer had a desperate need. Paul persevered through trial. And Silas was your faithful disciple. Teach us lessons from what happened in Philippi. For believers, help us see that when we are weak, you are strong. And for unbelievers, open hearts to know that there is no greater joy than the joy that comes through the gospel of Jesus Christ! Please move in the hearts of my students that they will one day experience the joy that only Jesus can bring. Open their hearts to see the truth and to respond to the gospel in repentance and faith.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Paul's Second Journey Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Paul's Second Journey Class Notes for each student
- Paul's Second Journey Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll complete the notes together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see what happened to Paul and Silas on Paul's second journey, especially in the city of Philippi.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to the Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Paul's first missionary journey was over. He had answered God's call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. He and his companion Barnabas had traveled by boat and by foot to several cities in the region.

- ? *Refer to Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster. What did God allow Paul to do so that the people would KNOW that the message he preached was really from God? God allowed Paul to do signs and wonders.*

➤ Use Paul's Missionary Journeys Map to follow Paul's travels as you teach the lesson.

Refer to *Paul's Missionary Journeys Map*. That's right. In Iconium we learned that Paul preached to the people. Some believed, and some did not.

? And what happened in Lystra? What did Paul do in this city that caused the people to worship him as though he were a god? *He healed a man who had been crippled.*

? The people wanted to worship Paul as a god! But they very quickly changed their minds. What happened to Paul? How did Paul leave the city of Lystra? *The people stoned him, dragged him out of the city, and left him for dead.*

That's right. It seems wherever he went, he ran into trouble. Some people believed him and others did not. His message—the message of the Cross—was foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God!

Refer to the *Memory Verse Poster*. That is our memory verse for these next few weeks. Let's read it together from the *Memory Verse Poster*. *1 Corinthians 1:18. Read the verse together.*

Refer to the *Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster*. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ! That was our memory verse last time. It was Romans 1:16.

? Will someone read or recite that for us? *Romans 1:16. Assign a reader.*

The Apostle Paul knew that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God. And it is the gospel that will save sinners from the wrath of God and will give them forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven! God was using Paul to preach the gospel in areas where people had never heard it before!

Refer to *Paul's Missionary Journeys Map*. That first journey was exciting for Paul and Barnabas. They finally returned to their church in Antioch. But it wasn't long before the Lord called on Paul again—for a second missionary journey. This journey would prove to be just as exciting and a lot longer! We are going to talk a little about that second missionary journey today.

Refer to *Paul's Missionary Journeys Map*. Take a look here, and I'll show you where this second journey took Paul and Silas—who was his traveling companion for this trip. This journey began with Paul and Silas passing through Syria and Cilicia. As they traveled this way, they stopped and encouraged believers at churches that were already started. They came to the cities of Derbe and Lystra.

Refer to *Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster*. Remember, this is where they were on the first journey. In fact, Paul was stoned and left for dead in Lystra! They met up with a young man, Timothy, in Lystra. Timothy joined them on this journey.

Refer to *Paul's Missionary Journeys Map*. God then directed Paul and his friends to Macedonia—this was the very first time the gospel would be presented to this part of the world! From the city of Troas they set sail to Macedonia. They ended up in the city of Philippi. From Philippi they traveled on to

► You can have students find each city on the map as you discuss Paul's second journey, or point out where each city is as you discuss it.

Thessalonica, then to the city of Berea. They went on to Athens, and to Corinth. They then sailed to Ephesus and from there headed home to Caesarea and to the church at Antioch.

God was working mightily to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, so people could be saved from sin. He continued to do that during Paul's second journey. We can't talk about what Paul and Silas did in each of these cities. But we are going to learn about some of the things that happened in Philippi!

Open your Bibles to Acts 16:11–15. We will begin reading there. *Acts 16:11–15. Choose students to read the verses.*

Acts 16:11–15

EXAMINE THE WORD

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Very good. Now remember Paul sailed from Troas over to the region of Macedonia. Let's talk about what happened there.

Observe the Text

- ? Where did Paul end up? Look in Acts 16:12. *The city of Philippi.*
- ? Right. What does that verse say about the city of Philippi? *It was the foremost city of that part of Macedonia.*
- Philippi was a large, important city in that area.
- ? How long did they stay there? *Acts 16:12. They stayed there for some days.*
- ? They stayed several days and were in Philippi on the Sabbath day—the day of rest. Where did they go on this particular Sabbath day? *Acts 16:13. Out of the city to the riverside.*
- ? Paul and his companion met some people there. Who did they meet? What did they do? *Acts 16:13. They met some women there and sat down to talk with them.*
- ? The Bible tells us the name of one of the women. What was it? *Acts 16:14. Lydia.*
- ? What did Lydia do for a living? What did she sell? *Acts 16:14. She was a seller of purple.*

Lydia sold either purple dye, or purple cloth. Purple cloth was very expensive and was worn by royalty and the rich. Paul was talking to Lydia and the other women by the river. God did something wonderful for Lydia.

- ? *Refer to Lesson Theme Poster. What did the Lord do for Lydia while she was listening to Paul teach about Jesus Christ, the Savior? Look in Acts 16:14 again. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things Paul said.*

How wonderful that is! God sent Paul to the river on the Sabbath day. The women were there. Paul was happy to talk to them about His Savior! And God opened Lydia's heart so that she really heard what Paul was saying.

- ? What did Lydia do after the Lord opened her heart to the truth? Look in Acts 16:15. *She and her household were baptized!*

➤ You may want to take this opportunity to explain your church's position on baptism.

Yes! They were sinners who were now saved through the power of God and the gospel! They believed and were baptized!

- ? What did Lydia then ask Paul and his friends? Still in Acts 16:15. *Come to my house and stay.*

Discover the Truth

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map and the Lesson Theme Poster. God was on the move! God sent Paul to Macedonia and on to the city of Philippi. There Paul met Lydia and the other women. Lydia heard the truth about Jesus Christ! God opened her heart to believe the gospel. And she turned away from her sins, turned to Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness, and was baptized. Then she asked Paul and his traveling companions to stay at her house for a while.

- ? Let's go to our class notes. Will someone read #1? What is the answer?
Assign a reader. Lydia.
- ? And what about #2? What did Lydia do after she heard the gospel? *Assign a reader. Believed.*

Great! Let's move on.



READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster and Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. We know that Paul ran into a lot of trouble on his first missionary journey, right? He was persecuted, run out of town, stoned, left for dead, and even mistaken for a pagan god. And his second journey was no different! He was not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ! And even when it got him into trouble—which it often did—he told people about Jesus! It wasn't long before he and Silas found themselves standing trial before the magistrates (the judges) in Philippi.

Acts 16:20–24

Turn in your Bible to Acts 16:20–24. Let's see what God had in store next for Paul and Silas. *Acts 16:20–24. Choose students to read the verses.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

This is not good news! Trouble was always following after Paul!

Observe the Text

- ? Look back in Acts 16:20. What were Paul and Silas accused of? *Troubling the city.*
- Paul and Silas were being accused of troubling the city. This was because they were teaching things that were not allowed to be taught to the people in Philippi. Later, the people rose up against them!
- ? What did the magistrates (or the judges) demand be done to Paul and Silas? *Acts 16:22. That they be beaten with rods.*

? Yes! They were beaten many times. And then what happened? *Acts 16:23. They were thrown into prison.*

They went to prison! And a guard was put over them for extra security.

? Where did the guard put them? How did the guard tie them up? Look in *Acts 16:24. He put them into the inner prison. He put their feet in the stocks.*

? Trouble followed Paul to Philippi! Someone read #3 on your class notes. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Prison.*

Discover the Truth

Paul was not ashamed of the gospel. He loved Jesus! And he wanted sinners like Lydia and her family to know about Jesus, believe in Him, and be saved! But now, in the city of Philippi, he and Silas found themselves beaten, thrown in prison, locked up, and their feet were fastened into stocks, which were metal chains!



READ THE WORD

What would happen? How would Paul and Silas act in prison? Would they get out? We are going to find out right now! Let's keep reading in *Acts 16:25–34. Acts 16:25–34. Choose students to read the verses.*

Acts 16:25–34

EXAMINE THE WORD

Now look at that verse and answer these questions.

Observe the Text

? What time of day was it when all this happened? *Acts 16:25. Midnight.*

It was the middle of the night—midnight! Earlier they had been beaten, thrown in prison, and their feet were put in metal stocks.

? But what were Paul and Silas doing? *Acts 16:25. Praying and singing hymns to God.*

? Who was listening to them? *Acts 16:25. The other prisoners.*

? What a night for Paul and Silas! Will someone read #4 on your class notes? What were Paul and Silas doing in prison? *Assign a reader. Praying.*

? God did something spectacular right there in the middle of the night, in that dark prison. What did God cause to happen? *Acts 16:26. There was a great earthquake!*

? Yes! God sent an earthquake. Go back to *Acts 16:26. What happened inside the prison because of that earthquake? All the doors were opened and everyone's chains came off!*

Wow! God sent the earthquake, and all the prisoners in the prison were suddenly set free! But the guard had fallen asleep! He woke up and saw what was going on.

? Look at #5 on the class notes. What is the answer? What happened that night that caused chaos in the jail? *Acts 16:26. Earthquake.*

? What did the guard do when he saw the prison doors open? Look in Acts 16:27. *He was about to kill himself!*

Yes! He looked and saw the doors open, and he knew he would be in BIG trouble for letting all the prisoners go free. So he wanted to end his life. He didn't kill himself, though.

? Who stopped him? *Acts 16:28. Paul.*

? What did Paul say to him? *Acts 16:28. Do yourself no harm for we are all here!*

Paul stopped the guard from killing himself. None of the prisoners had even left the prison. They were all still there! The guard was really upset. He called for a light. Remember, it was the middle of the night! When he could see, he was surprised and relieved to find all of the prisoners still in their cells. And he went to Paul and Silas and fell down before them.

? Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. What did the guard say according to Acts 16:30? *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

He wanted to be saved through Jesus Christ!

? So, what did Paul and Silas tell him he must do to be saved? *Acts 16:31. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."*

? That's right. Then they continued to talk to the guard. What were they talking about? *Acts 16:32. The Word of the Lord.*

Yes. The guard heard and was changed by the Word of the Lord. He took Paul and Silas and cleaned their backs where they had been beaten.

? And what did he do after that? Look at the end of Acts 16:33. *Acts 16:33. He and all his family were baptized.*

? What a night for the prison guard! Let's complete the class notes. Someone read #6 for us. *Assign a reader. Kill.*

? The guard was changed forever by what happened that night! Look at #7. What did he ask Paul? *Assign a reader. Saved.*

? What did Paul tell the jailer? Who can read #8? *Assign a reader. Jesus.*

Discover the Truth

Wow! God has His own way of doing things! Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison. But God used this terrible thing to do something so wonderful. Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns in the middle of the night in prison. God caused an earthquake that opened all the prison doors. The guard wanted to kill himself! But God stopped him through Paul. And Paul told him about the Lord Jesus Christ!

► You may want to take this opportunity to explain your church's position on baptism.

The man believed, and he was baptized. This jailer was forgiven of his sins! He was saved from God's wrath and punishment. He turned from his sins and turned to Jesus Christ for forgiveness. And now he would spend eternity with God. What seemed like a horrible situation turned out to be a joyful and wonderful time! The guard and his household rejoiced that they had been saved by God's grace.



► If time allows, assign students to re-read the points on the class notes as a review and briefly discuss them.



Four In A Row

MATERIALS

- Four in a Row Teacher Guide
- Masking tape
- Beanbag, rolled up sock, or other appropriate item
- Red construction paper—8 sheets
- Black construction paper—8 sheets

INSTRUCTIONS

Use masking tape to make a 16-section square on the floor. The square should be four sections wide by four sections high. Each section should be equal in size. Divide the students into two teams—red team and black team. Cut 8 red circles and 8 black circles from the red and black construction paper. Or use some other appropriate markers for the two teams. Give each team eight paper circles—either red or black.

Students will toss the beanbag to a square. They will answer a question. If correct, they can put a marker in that square. To win the game, teams must get four circles in a row on the grid—by answering the questions correctly and throwing the beanbags accurately.

We are going to review now by playing Four in a Row. I'll put you into two teams: Red Team and Black Team. I want each team to throw the beanbag onto an empty square on the grid. I will then ask a question about what we have been learning. If your team answers correctly, mark the grid where the beanbag landed. If you don't get it correct, the other team will have an opportunity to answer and earn a space on the grid. We will alternate teams until one team gets **four circles in a row**. Play the game using the *Four in a Row Teacher Guide* from the *Resource DVD-ROM*.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

On Paul's second journey, Paul and Silas preached and taught about Jesus boldly to all those they met. Those who responded to the truth, like Lydia and the jailer, were transformed by the truth of the gospel and God's marvelous grace!



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 2 Lesson Theme Poster. God used Paul to change many people's lives with the truth about Jesus. He traveled to many different cities on his second missionary journey. Silas was his traveling companion. One of the cities they went to was Philippi. In Philippi, Paul met Lydia and other

women by the river. He told them about Jesus. God opened Lydia's heart to the truth. She believed in Jesus and was baptized.

Things got bad for Paul and Silas while they were in Philippi. They were beaten with rods for teaching about Jesus, and were then thrown into prison. Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns in the prison in the middle of the night. God sent an earthquake that opened the cell doors and set the prisoners free. Instead of escaping when he had the chance, Paul preached the gospel to the jailer. The jailer believed and was baptized.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Let's talk about what happened to Paul and Silas for a minute. They were beaten with rods. That's a serious beating. And then they were taken to a dark, cold, prison cell and put in stocks, which means they were chained up.

? Why were they treated like that? Did they murder someone or steal something? *No!*

No. Of course not. This was their punishment for speaking out for the Lord Jesus.

But they were able to sing hymns and pray to God while in the prison cell. They didn't have any idea what was going to happen to them. But through it all they trusted God. And even while in prison and in pain from the beatings, they had joy and peace.

There are certain promises in the Bible for sinners who repent and turn to Christ. The Bible promises that God's grace to believers will always be enough to help us endure hardships. We can trust Him and look to Him for hope and strength when we are afraid or something bad is happening. He will help us. We can trust Him just like Paul and Silas trusted Him when they were in jail and suffering.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Pray that God will open the hearts of your students to His truth like He did for Lydia and for the jailer.
- Praise God because He is with believers all the time and promises to give His grace and strength when we are suffering.
- Ask God to give us the grace to react to persecution and trials with hope and joy, prayer, and even singing.