



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Is Powerful

SCRIPTURE: Acts 16

WORD OF WONDER: Romans 8:14

One of the best things about being a follower of Jesus is knowing that we have the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. What power is that? The power over evil spirits, the power over our circumstances, the power of salvation. Read Acts 16:16–36, and you can see the Holy Spirit working in each of these ways.

Through Paul, the Spirit delivered a possessed slave girl, rescued Paul and Silas by opening prison doors and loosening chains, and then led a Roman jailer to salvation—along with his whole family. Now that’s some power! The power to do it all. This is the same Spirit guiding us and working within us. He hasn’t changed.

But it’s up to us to keep trusting that the Spirit is working in our lives. Even when Paul and Silas were thrown into prison, they didn’t doubt or sulk about their situation; they praised God! They sang and prayed and continued to trust that God would show up. When have you seen the Spirit work in powerful ways? When a situation changes and things go from good to bad, how do you respond? Remember that God, through the Holy Spirit, is working powerfully, guiding us in our work to bring Him glory in all we do. When we trust the Holy Spirit, good things follow.

—Kramer Mize

Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Paul and Silas became traveling companions after Paul and Barnabas parted company. Silas was a Jewish man who was a leader and prophet in the church of Jerusalem. He had previously traveled with Paul to Antioch as a delegate of the Jerusalem Council.

WHAT?

After Paul drove out an evil spirit, he and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison. They prayed and sang hymns, and an earthquake opened the prison doors, but they did not leave. Instead, they shared the gospel with the jailer and his household.

WHERE?

Philippi was a major city in the northern region of Macedonia, about 10 miles inland from the port city of Neapolis, where Paul arrived from Troas. It was a Roman colony greatly influenced by Roman culture. Philippi is in the northern part of present-day Greece.

WHEN?

This story takes place around AD 50, during what is known as Paul's second missionary journey. It comes shortly after Paul and his companions arrived in Philippi and shared the message of Jesus with Lydia, whose house became Paul's homebase in Philippi.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

In this story, the news of the risen Jesus continues spreading and the church continues growing as the Spirit moves in power even through challenging circumstances. Angry mobs, beatings, and prison walls do not thwart the advance of God's kingdom.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Balloon Power

SUPPLIES: uninflated balloon, table tennis ball, table

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Gather kids together around the table and show them an uninflated balloon and the table tennis ball. Set the tennis ball on the table in front of you. Blow up the balloon with air but do not tie it.

Welcome! This balloon is filled with air! What will happen if I let go of the bottom of the balloon? Allow the kids to respond. **The air will come out. Do you think the air inside the balloon is powerful enough to knock the ball off the table? Let's try.** Hold the balloon right behind the ball with one hand while releasing the opening of the balloon with the other so that the air rushing out of the balloon pushes the ball off the table. **Wow! The balloon was powerful enough to knock the ball off the table, but it wasn't powerful enough alone. It needed air inside it to give it power. We can't see air, but we can see how powerful the air is.**

Today we are learning about the Holy Spirit. Just like we couldn't see the air in our balloon, we can't see the Holy Spirit. The air in our balloon had some power, but the Holy Spirit has all power!

Be sure to keep the balloon out of the reach of kids at all times and place it where they can't reach it when you complete this activity.



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LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, we thank You for this time to learn about You and Your Holy Spirit. We ask Your Spirit to guide us and show us His power. Help us to understand that You've given us Your presence because You love us and will help us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Big Picture Bible, pages 500-503

Earthquake in Prison

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

—Romans 8:14