



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

Curiosity 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!

Gather kids together around the table and show them an uninflated balloon and the table tennis ball.

Do you think this balloon is powerful enough to knock this table tennis ball across the table?

Allow the kids to share their thoughts. Lay the ball on the table and lay the uninflated balloon right behind it.

Is anything happening? Nope! The balloon doesn't have any power. It needs something to give it power.

What do you think this balloon needs? Allow kids to give ideas. Blow up the balloon with air but do not tie it. **Now the balloon is filled with something. What is it filled with?** Allow the kids to respond. **It's filled with air! What will happen if I let go of the end of the balloon? 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'll learn more 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!

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who was put in prison for sharing their faith in today's story?** *(Paul and Silas)*
- **What did Paul and Silas do while they were in prison?** *(prayed and sang)*
- **What powerful thing happened after Paul and Silas prayed and sang?** *(an earthquake)*
- **God used an earthquake to free Paul and Silas. Did they run away? Why do you think they didn't?** *(No, they stayed in the prison so the jailer wouldn't get in trouble, and they told him about Jesus.)*
- **If you had been with Paul and Silas, would you have sung songs and prayed? Why or why not?**
- **When have you seen the Holy Spirit's power at work in your life?** *(If the kids need help thinking of answers, share a time when the Holy Spirit has given you wisdom during a problem, revealed something from the Bible to you, or given you courage during a hard time.)*
- **What is a situation you're in that is hard? God can help you with anything!**

The Holy Spirit is so powerful that He caused an earthquake to break open the prison doors and loosen the prisoners' chains! The Holy Spirit also does things that we can't see, such as helping us become more like Jesus by changing how we think and act. Let's pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts as He did in the jailer's so we can become more like Jesus. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Romans 8:14

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does the Holy Spirit lead us?** *(If the kids have trouble coming up with answers, guide them by reminding them that the Holy Spirit helps us know how to obey God, how to live, and leads us in sharing His love with others.)*
- **What does it mean to be a child of God?** *(If the kids have trouble coming up with answers, remind them that those who trust in Jesus as their Savior are adopted into God's family, are forgiven, and become children of God.)*



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LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Mother's Day Card

Supplies: cardstock, die cut hands, google eyes/sticker eyes, green paper strips, glue sticks



Have the kids fold their paper in half to make a card. They can glue on a die cut hand as a flower and green paper strip for the stem. Add eyes (the google eyes are adhesive, but it is a little tricky to get the backing off – kids will need help with this), a mouth and cheeks. Then have the kids open up their card and draw a picture or write a message for their mom.

For any kids who stayed for both services and made the card during the 9:00 service, there are additional Mom cards. They can choose one to color while the other kids are making their card.



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LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Responding in Worship: Chains

SUPPLIES: colored paper, scissors (prep only), stapler, coloring utensils, trash can, tape (optional)

Ahead of time, cut colored paper into paper strips (about 1" x 8.5" each), enough for each kid to have one, plus some extras.

Today we learned that the Holy Spirit is powerful! He is strong enough to help us with our biggest problems and loving enough to make us more like Jesus. We're going to spend some time thinking about times when we need the Holy Spirit's help. For example, you might have trouble being kind to your brother or sister, but the Holy Spirit can help you!

Leader Tip: Kids might need help thinking of things that they need the Holy Spirit's help with. Give them several examples of things they might be facing (such arguments with siblings, scary dreams, following rules, etc.).

Hand out a strip of paper to each kid. **We're going to draw pictures on our strips of paper that remind us of something we need the Holy Spirit's help with.** Give a personal example of something you could use the Holy Spirit's help with (age appropriate), then give the kids time to draw on their strips. Once they're done, gather them together and explain to kids that they are going to make a paper chain by linking the strips of paper together. Demonstrate this by stapling (or taping) together the two ends of a paper strip. Then take a second strip, push it through the loop created by the first strip and attach the two ends of the second together. Start the chain by adding a few loops before the kids start adding loops. **We're going to take turns adding a loop to this chain.** Continue until each child has added her loop to the chain.

Now that we've created this chain, let's stand up and hold our chain in front of us. Each kid can hold one part of the chain. **We might not be in prison chains like Paul and Silas were in God's big story, but sometimes difficult situations in our lives can feel like chains around us. But the Holy Spirit has the power to break any chain in our lives. We don't always understand why things happen or why some things are hard for us, but God is always with us and is more powerful than any situation! You can rip apart your loop of the chain as a reminder that the Holy Spirit is powerful and gives freedom!**

Encourage kids to clean up what's left of the chains and throw the scraps in the trash.