



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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: toy musical instruments, coloring utensils, dolls or stuffed animals (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Paul and Silas in Prison Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Create a Song

Set-up: Set out toy musical instruments. You can also set out dolls or stuffed animals.

Play: Kids can use the instruments to create their own praise songs. They can perform their songs for dolls or stuffed animals if you have some out.

Play Station: Paul and Silas in Prison Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Paul and Silas in Prison Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of something that is powerful.



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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.

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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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.

Extra “Mom” cards are included for any kids who finish quickly or who want an additional card.