

Paul's Jailer Believes in Jesus

Acts 16:16-34

Third- and fourth-graders know the difference between right and wrong. They can also choose which they will do. Because they understand cause and effect, they know they will suffer consequences for doing wrong. You can use this lesson to help kids see that by believing in Jesus, they can receive salvation and that Jesus paid the price for their wrongdoing, or sin.



► Bible Point

Jesus saves us.

Key Verse

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will thank Jesus for saving them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	All Shook Up <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Simulate an earthquake to help someone find a lost key.	key	
2 Bible Exploration	Earthquake! <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Explore the events and characters in the Bible story.	Bible, CD player, washable markers, flashlight, wet wipes, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	I Believe! <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make journals and share with each other what being saved means to them.	Bible Truth Sleuth, scissors, stapler, blank paper, markers	Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





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Acts 16:16-34

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Paul Casts a Demon Out of a Girl and Ends Up in Jail

When Paul cast the demon out of the girl, she lost her ability to tell fortunes. Therefore, her owners saw Paul's actions as an attack on their property. They saw Paul and his companions as Jews propagating outlandish beliefs. On the basis of the owners' accusations, Paul and Silas were flogged and put in jail.

This time when God freed his servants from jail, he essentially freed everyone in the jail. Why didn't everyone flee? Perhaps they stayed because of the impression Paul and Silas had on them when they were singing hymns at midnight in spite of their chains!

The Romans dealt severely with jailers who were unable to deliver their prisoners at the appointed time. Assuming that all the prisoners had escaped as a result of the earthquake opening the gates, the jailer thought he would die at the hands of his superiors. Taking his own life seemed a better choice at that point. Only a shout from Paul stopped him. When the jailer realized that all the prisoners were still there, he was ready to accept Paul's message. And Paul's message was clear: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

The Jailer Takes Paul and Silas to His Home

It was not against any rule for the jailer to take Paul and Silas to his own home. The jailer was commissioned only to produce the prisoners when they were called for. After what had happened that night, he probably didn't fear that they would try to escape. Instead, he took care of their wounds from the flogging, gave them some good food, and rejoiced in the salvation he had received. Paul and Silas undoubtedly realized that the flogging and imprisonment they had endured were worth the joy that salvation had brought to the Philippian jailer!

The Jesus Connection

Paul and Silas were the real deal. Their actions matched their message. Your genuine relationship with Jesus is capturing the attention of others around you.

Have you believed in Jesus? How committed are you to living out his gift of salvation? Pray about what it means to you that Jesus saved you. You can write your prayer here.





All Shook Up Supplies

key

1 GETTING STARTED

All Shook Up

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: Today we're going to start our class by playing a game. I'll hide an object in our classroom, and a "seeker" will have to find it.

Ask for a volunteer to be the seeker for the first round, and send that person out of the room. (For safety, you may want to have an adult volunteer go with the student.)

When the seeker has left the room, quietly hide the key, letting the rest of the class see where you hide it.

Say: When our seeker comes back into the room, you'll give clues about where the key is hidden. This is how you'll do it: Whenever the seeker starts to get close to the key, don't say a word but start shaking as though you were in an earthquake. How much you shake depends on how close the seeker is to the key. If he or she is kind of close, you'll shake just a little bit. But if the seeker is really close, you'll need to shake really hard. Is everyone ready? Let's go!

Have the seeker return to the room, and let him or her know what signs to look for while seeking the hidden key. When the seeker finds the key, have everyone applaud the efforts of both the "shakers" and the seeker. Choose another seeker, hide the key in a different location, and play again. Play several rounds.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to have clues to help you find the key?
- How did you feel once you found the key?
- Would it have been more difficult to find the key without any help? Why or why not?

Say: In today's Bible story, we'll hear the story of two men who were thrown into prison and then miraculously set free because of an earthquake. In today's game, "earthquakes" helped you find the key. In today's Bible story, an earthquake helped the two men in prison. Because of the earthquake in the prison, the jailer found something important. We'll talk about what the jailer found and learn that
▶ JESUS SAVES US.





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Earthquake!

What You'll Do

Say: Today's Bible story comes from Acts 16:16-34.

Open your Bible to Acts 16:16-34, and show the passage to the kids.

Say: **A slave girl followed Paul and Silas as they told people about Jesus. This girl had an evil spirit and distracted people from hearing what Paul and Silas had to say. Paul commanded the evil spirit to leave her, and the evil spirit left. The owners of the slave girl were very angry because they realized they could no longer make money from the girl's fortunetelling. So they dragged Paul and Silas to the authorities, saying that the two men were telling people to do unlawful things, when actually Paul and Silas were only telling people about Jesus. Then the crowd joined in the attack. They stripped Paul and Silas, beat them, and threw them into jail.**

Use the washable markers to draw a couple of lines on kids' arms to represent marks from being beaten. Then have all the kids huddle together in one corner of the room to simulate being in the inner cell of the jail.

Ask:

- **How do you think Paul and Silas felt about being beaten and thrown into prison for telling people about Jesus?**
- **How would you feel if you were beaten and thrown into jail for talking about Jesus?**

Say: **Let's take a look at what Paul and Silas did.**

Read aloud Acts 16:25.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and have kids review the lyrics and try to learn them by reading. Cue your CD to "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25) (track 14) and turn out the lights to pretend that it's midnight. Play the song through once or twice so kids can listen. Then have kids sing along with the CD.

I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.
(Repeat.)

There's no! other way to the Father.
No! other way to the Son.
No! other way to Jesus.



Earthquake! Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - washable markers
 - flashlight
 - wet wipes
 - copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson)
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25) (track 14)





**We must believe, we must believe,
We must believe in him alone!**

**I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.**
(Repeat.)

**I am the resurrection and the life!
I am the resurrection and the life!**

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Ask:

- **Do you think you could sing praises to God if you were really in jail?**
- **How do you think Paul and Silas were able to sing praises?**

Say: **Let’s find out what happened next.**

Leave the lights off. Using a flashlight if necessary, read aloud Acts 16:26-27. When you’ve finished reading the verses, have kids pretend they’re in an earthquake. Have kids pretend to shake chains from their hands and feet.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How do you think the jailer felt knowing that the prisoners he was responsible for could now escape?**
- **What would you do if you’d been a prisoner?**
- **What do you think Paul and Silas should have done?**

Say: **Let’s continue reading and find out what the jailer and Paul and Silas did.**

Read aloud Acts 16:28.

Ask:

- **How do you think the jailer felt when he realized Paul and Silas were still there?**
- **Why do you think Paul and Silas stayed?**

Read aloud Acts 16:29-34. Have kids use wet wipes to wash the “wounds” you put on them earlier with the washable markers.

Ask:

- **What happened to the jailer as a result of Paul and Silas staying?**





Say: **Paul and Silas told the jailer that ► JESUS SAVES US, and the jailer believed in Jesus. If Paul and Silas had left the prison, not only would the jailer have killed himself with his sword, but he also would have died without knowing about Jesus.**

Ask:

- **What does it mean to be saved?**

Say: **Being saved means that we can have eternal life with God through Jesus.**

Ask:

- **How can you be saved?**

Say: **We can find the answer in our Key Verse for today. We can find it in Acts 16:31 and in our Bible story. Let's take a look at the verse.**

Read aloud Acts 16:31. Have kids repeat the verse with you a few times: **"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."**

Ask:

- **What did the jailer do to be saved?**
- **What does it mean in your life to be saved?**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

I Believe!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's make something to help us remember what it means to be saved.**

Distribute the Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "I Believe!" activity.

Say: **You're going to create a cover for a journal you'll make. The Key Verse is written on the cover for you. I want you to draw something to help you remember that you will be saved when you believe in Jesus.**

Give kids five minutes to create their covers. Then have kids cut off the "I Believe!" journal covers from the bottom of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Give kids each several sheets of paper, and have them fold the sheets in half. Then have them each staple the edge of the "I Believe!" cover to the stack of folded sheets.

Have kids find partners. Say: **Now you'll share with your partner what being saved means in your life. When I yell, "I believe!" I want you to stand up, change partners, and share with your new partner what being saved means in your life.** Allow time.



I Believe! Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
scissors
stapler
blank paper
markers

I Believe! Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 11
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Say: **I want you to take your “I Believe!” journal home with you this week, and each day, write new things you learn about God and Jesus. Or you could write about people who you tell about Jesus.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to help us remember that ► JESUS SAVES US.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on the Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Make a paper chain and hang it in your room. Each morning take a link off the chain and thank God for sending Jesus to save us.**
- **Ask a parent to read today's Bible story with you. Then pray and thank Jesus for saving you!**
- **Tell a friend about Jesus, explaining that only Jesus can save us from our sins!**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **► JESUS SAVES US. Let's celebrate that by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about salvation. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Close in prayer.



**Lyrics** ■■■■**I Am the Resurrection and the Life****(John 11:25)**

**I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.**
(Repeat.)

**There's no! other way to the Father.
No! other way to the Son.
No! other way to Jesus.**

**We must believe, we must believe,
We must believe in him alone!**

**I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.**
(Repeat.)

**I am the resurrection and the life!
I am the resurrection and the life!**

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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