

Paul's Jailer Believes in Jesus

Acts 16:16-34

Five- and six-year-olds can understand that Jesus loves them, died for them, and forgives them when they've done wrong. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" is the message of today's Bible story. Keep salvation this simple for your children, and don't try to explain it from an adult's perspective. There's something about having a child's faith that makes it easier for kids to understand and accept the gospel than it is for most adults.



► Bible Point

Jesus saves us.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will thank Jesus for saving them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Jesus Saves! Learn what it means to be saved from sin.	Bible, yarn, scissors	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what Life Savers candies have to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, Gummy Life Savers candies Teacher Pack: CD	Place the Gummy Life Savers candies in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time Act out the Bible story using craft stick puppets.	Bible, CD player, My Bible Playground, 3 craft sticks and 5 drinking straws per child, clay, markers, scissors, tape Teacher Pack: CD	Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Lock Them Up Play a singing game to remember that Jesus saves us.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
	<p>Center 2: Jail Snacks Retell the Bible story as they make their snacks.</p>	<p>graham crackers, miniature marshmallows, licorice strips, paper plates</p>	
	<p>Center 3: I'll Save You Use blocks to build a jail, and act out the Bible story.</p>	<p>cardboard blocks, dress-up clothes, streamers, toy dishes</p>	
	<p>Center 4: Friendly First-Aid Kit Create miniature first-aid kits to give away.</p>	<p>1 resealable plastic bag, 1 fun adhesive bandage, 1 wrapped non-alcohol wet wipe, and 1 wrapped candy per child; stickers</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	
	<p>"Life Savers" Prayer Thank Jesus for saving us.</p>	<p>Gummy Life Savers candies from the "Theo's News" activity</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We Welcome You
to Church Today"
(track 15)

Jesus Saves! Supplies

Bible
yarn
scissors

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcoming Song

Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "We Welcome You to Church Today" (track 15 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Tell the children to stand up and greet each other as they sing and march around the room. Encourage the children to shake hands with one another when they sing the words "We welcome you to church today."

 **We welcome you to church today, hurrah, hurrah!**
We welcome you to church today, hurrah, hurrah!
We welcome you to church today.
We're here to worship and to pray
As we sing together,
Learning about God's love.
(Repeat 2x.)

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Jesus Saves!

What You'll Do

Have the children sit in a circle, and set a ball of yarn and scissors nearby. Open your Bible to Acts 16:31, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." Let's say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you. **Let's talk about the word "save."**





Ask:

- What does it mean to save someone or something?

Say: To save something is to keep it from getting hurt, like a firefighter saves someone from a burning house. "Save" also means to keep from being lost. It's like when your parents tell you to stay close to them so you don't wander away and get lost in the shopping mall. Jesus wants to keep us from getting hurt, wandering away, and getting lost because of our sinful actions. Our Key Verse says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." When we sin and disobey, our sins keep us away from Jesus. Let's find out how this yarn can show us how sin gets us all tangled up and keeps us away from Jesus.

Have kids stand up. Hold the end of a ball of yarn, and then toss the ball to the children, encouraging them to tangle themselves up in the yarn. Have kids toss the yarn to their other classroom friends until everyone is "entangled in sin."

Say: **Jesus is like these scissors. He can save us from all the things that keep us from him.**

As you release the children by cutting the yarn into many pieces, have kids repeat the Key Verse.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you feel when you were all tangled up in the yarn?
- What set you free from the tangled yarn?
- How were the scissors like what Jesus wants to do for you?

Say: **Jesus wants to save us from all the things that keep us from him. When we believe in Jesus to forgive our sins, ► JESUS SAVES US and sets us free from the sins that tangle us up and keep us from him.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.



Theo's News Supplies

- CD player
- Surprise Box (any box will do)
- Theo puppet
- Gummy Life Savers candies
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Here, Theo" (track 3)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the Gummy Life Savers candies in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Bible Time Supplies

Bible
CD player
My Bible Playground
3 craft sticks and
5 drinking straws
per child
clay
markers
scissors
tape
Teacher Pack
CD: "Got a Reason for
Livin' Again" (track 4)

Bible Time Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
11 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

Theo: I found something very interesting! I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have kids pass the candies around the circle. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)

Teacher: Does anyone know what the word "lifesaver" means? And how is that like what our Key Verse says that Jesus can do?

(Pause and let children share their ideas.)

Teacher: Theo, why are there Life Savers candies in our Surprise Box?

Theo: If a person can't swim and needs help getting out of the water, a lifeguard will jump into the water or throw a life preserver into the water to save the person! And Life Savers candies are shaped like life preservers—they're a good reminder that Jesus can save us from drowning in our sins. Our story today is about how Jesus was a "lifesaver" for a man and his whole family.

Teacher: Let's find out how Jesus saved the people in our story.

Theo: Have a great time today, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let's all say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave and say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Acts 16:16-34, and show the children the words.

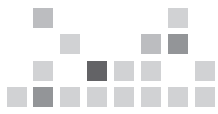
Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► JESUS SAVES US.**

Direct each of the children to take three craft sticks and to use the markers to make faces on the craft sticks to represent Paul, Silas, and the jailer. Give kids grape-size pieces of clay to help them stand up their craft stick puppets.

Say: **Paul and his friend, Silas, traveled to many places telling people about Jesus' love and how ► JESUS SAVES US.** Encourage kids to walk their Paul and Silas puppets in front of them, pretending to heal people and tell others about Jesus.


One day, while Paul and Silas were telling others about Jesus, they were taken and put in jail, with their feet chained to the walls so they couldn't escape. But Paul and Silas knew that Jesus was with them even in the jail.

Give kids the My Bible Playground student pages. Show kids how to fold their papers to create the jail cell background to use in acting out the Bible story. Then show them how to make five 1-inch cuts at the top and bottom edges of the pages and put the straws in the slits to create jail bars. Give kids small pieces of tape to put over the edge of each cut to prevent the straws from falling out. Have the children place the Paul and Silas puppets inside the jail cell and stand the jailer up at the edge of the student page, as if guarding the jail.



Say: **Instead of whining about where they were, Paul and Silas spent the night praying and singing songs to God. While we finish the jail cell on our student pages, let's sing and praise God as Paul and Silas did.**

Begin playing "Got a Reason for Livin' Again," and encourage kids to use their Paul and Silas puppets to sing.

 **Got a reason for livin' again, oh, oh, oh.
Got a reason for laughin' again, oh, oh, oh.
Got a reason for lovin' again.
I got the love of God in my heart!**

**No reason to cry anymore, oh, oh, oh.
No reason to sigh anymore, oh, oh, oh.
No reason to die anymore.
I got the love of God in my heart!**

**Monday, I was all alone.
Tuesday, I had my sins to atone.
Wednesday, I cried and I cried.
Thursday, Lord, I thought I would die.
Friday, I started to pray.
Saturday, I read my Bible today.
Sunday, Lord, the heavens did part.
I got the love of God in my heart!**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**Got a reason for livin' again, oh, oh, oh.
Got a reason for laughin' again, oh, oh, oh.
Got a reason for lovin' again.
I got the love of God in my heart!**

**No reason to cry anymore, oh, oh, oh.
No reason to sigh anymore, oh, oh, oh.
No reason to die anymore.
I got the love of God in my heart!
I got the love of God in my heart!
I got the love of God in my heart!**

Say: **Suddenly, there was a big earthquake, and the whole jail shook. The earthquake was so strong that it broke the chains that held the prisoners and opened the doors of the jail.** Have kids shake their student pages so that the bars fall over.

Ask:

- **What do you think Paul and Silas did when the chains broke and they were free?**
- **What would you do?**





When the jailer saw what had happened at the jail, he was sure all of the prisoners were gone and that he would be killed for letting the prisoners get away. Paul and Silas didn't want the jailer to die because of them, so they didn't run away. The jailer was so happy and surprised that he asked Paul and Silas what he had to do to be saved. Have kids walk their jailer puppet to where Paul and Silas are and repeat, "What must I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas told the jailer that God had saved his life and that God wanted to save him from his sins, too. They told the jailer to believe in the Lord Jesus and he would be saved. Let the children use their puppets to have Paul tell the jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

Paul and Silas told the jailer all about Jesus that night. The jailer was so happy that Jesus had saved him that he took care of their wounds. The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house, and that day, he and his whole family believed in Jesus and were baptized. They all celebrated their belief in Jesus and enjoyed a big meal together. Have kids walk their craft stick puppets to the outside of the jail cell and pretend to have a meal together.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- After the earthquake, what did the jailer ask Paul and Silas?
- How do you feel knowing Jesus can save you, too?

Say: Paul and Silas had some bad things happen, but they told the jailer about Jesus anyway. The jailer and his whole family learned that ► **JESUS SAVES US.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Lock Them Up

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids form groups of five or six children. In each group, instruct the kids to choose

Center 1: Lock Them Up Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Lock Them Up"
(track 19)





two children to be the Jailers who will form an arch to represent the jail bars by holding hands above their heads (as in the game of London Bridge). Tell kids in each group that the Jailers will lower the “jail bars” around the child who is passing through at the end of the first verse. During the second verse, the Jailers will gently shake the trapped child back and forth until the last line, when they’ll lift their arms to set the child free.

Lead the children in singing “Lock Them Up” (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of “London Bridge” as they play the game. At the end of the song, have groups choose new Jailers, and re-cue the CD for a new round of play. If you have time, continue playing until each child has had a turn being “locked up.”



Paul and Silas went to town (*Jailers allow children to move through arch*),
Went to town,
Went to town.
Paul and Silas went to town,
Telling about Jesus. (*Jailers lower arms to trap a child.*)

Paul and Silas were locked up (*Jailers rock trapped child back and forth*),
Were locked up,
Were locked up.
Paul and Silas were locked up
But Jesus set them free. (*Jailers release trapped child.*)

Paul and Silas went to town (*Jailers allow children to move through arch*),
Went to town,
Went to town.
Paul and Silas went to town,
Telling about Jesus. (*Jailers lower arms to trap a child.*)

The jailer was afraid he’d die (*Jailers rock trapped child back and forth*),
Afraid he’d die,
Afraid he’d die.
The jailer was afraid he’d die,
But Jesus saved his life. (*Jailers release trapped child.*)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did God save Paul and Silas in our Bible story?**
- **How was the jailer saved?**
- **What did the jailer and his family need to do to be saved?**

Say: **Our Key Verse** says, “**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.**”





Center 2: Jail Snacks Supplies

graham crackers
miniature
marshmallows
licorice strips
paper plates

**! ALLERGY
ALERT**

Center 3: I'll Save You Supplies

cardboard blocks
dress-up clothes
streamers
toy dishes

CENTER 2:

Jail Snacks

What You'll Do

Have kids wash their hands (or use wet wipes) before beginning their snacks. Give each child a paper plate, and set out graham crackers, miniature marshmallows, and licorice strips. Encourage kids to retell the Bible story using a graham cracker to represent the jail cell, the marshmallows to represent people, and the strips of licorice to represent jail bars. Kids will delight in laying out the licorice strips and then watching the marshmallows jump around the plate during their make-believe earthquake.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think Paul and Silas felt when they were in jail?
- What happened when the earthquake came?
- An earthquake saved Paul and Silas from the jail, but how did God save the jailer and his family?

Say: Lots of people were saved in our Bible story today. God saved Paul and Silas from jail when the earthquake came. Paul and Silas saved the jailer from being killed by not running away. Jesus saved the jailer and his whole family from sin, and ► **JESUS SAVES US, too.**

CENTER 3:

I'll Save You

What You'll Do

Set out large cardboard blocks, streamers, and biblical dress-up clothes. Have kids use the blocks to build the walls of the jail and the jailer's house. Let kids decide who will be each character in the story. Encourage kids to act out the story using streamers as the chains on the feet of Paul and Silas in the jail. And give kids dishes to pretend to have a meal together in the jailer's house after Paul and Silas have been set free.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think Paul and Silas sang to God when they were in jail?
- How would you feel if you were suddenly set free? What would you do?
- How did the jailer feel when he saw that Paul, Silas, and the other prisoners hadn't run away?
- What do you think Jesus can do for you and your family?





Say: **Even when Paul and Silas were in jail, they prayed and sang songs. After they were set free, they didn't run away. When the jailer saw this, it made him want to know what he needed to do to be saved. When we tell others what we believe about Jesus and how he saves us from our sins, other people will believe in Jesus and will be saved, too.**

CENTER 4:

Friendly First-Aid Kit

What You'll Do

Set out snack-sized resealable plastic bags, fun adhesive bandages, individually wrapped non-alcohol wet wipes, stickers, and individually wrapped candies.

Ask:

- **How do you think Paul and Silas felt after the jailer took them home and took care of their wounds?**

Say: **Let's make a first-aid kit to give a friend who gets hurt.**

Have each child put together a first-aid kit to take home and later give to someone who's hurt or sick. Let each child put a bandage, a wipe, and a piece of candy into a bag. Then encourage them to decorate the outside of the bag with stickers.

Say: **When you give this to someone who is hurt, you'll be showing the love of Jesus to that person. Jesus showed his love for us by saving us. It's great to know that ► JESUS SAVES US.**



Center 4: Friendly First-Aid Kit Supplies

1 resealable plastic bag, 1 fun adhesive bandage, 1 wrapped non-alcohol wet wipe, and 1 wrapped candy per child
stickers

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





“Life Savers” Prayer Supplies

Gummy Life Savers candies from the “Theo’s News” activity

! ALLERGY ALERT

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **JESUS SAVES US**. I’d like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to remember that Jesus saves us.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Make a present for Jesus, and tell Jesus that the present is for him because you’re thankful that he came to save you!**
2. **Say a prayer each night before you go to bed, thanking Jesus for coming to save you!**
3. **Sit in a circle with your family, and tell each other why you are thankful that Jesus came to save us.**

Say: **If you want to make a present for Jesus, circle choice number 1. If you want to pray, circle choice number 2. If you want to sit with your family, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

“Life Savers” Prayer

What You’ll Do

Give each child one of the Gummy Life Savers candies, and have kids repeat the following prayer before they eat the candy.

**Thank you, Jesus, that you want to save me.
Help me to tell others that they can believe in Jesus and be saved, too.
In your name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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