

Acts-Revelation

A Jailer Believes in Jesus Acts 16:16-40

Younger Verse

If you believe...then you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Older Verse

If you say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe in your heart that God raised Christ from death, then you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Welcome Time

Sometime during today's time, hold each person's hand and gently squeeze it 3 times. Tell that person that those squeezes mean "**I love you.**" (Be sure you sing some songs today—it will lead perfectly into the lesson)

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

One day, Luke, Paul, and Silas were going to a place to pray. A young girl met them. She began shouting loudly, "These men love God. They can tell you how to get to Heaven."

She kept doing this for many days and it began to bother Paul. So, one day he turned around and asked God to make her well. Immediately she was well.

Her owners were furious! They knew that now they could not use her to make money. So they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the town rulers. They said, "These men are making trouble in our city. They are teaching things that are not right for us."

The crowd joined the attack against them. The officers tore their clothes, and beat them with rods.

Then Paul and Silas were thrown into jail. The jailer was ordered to guard them carefully so he put them far inside the jail. He locked their feet between large blocks of wood.

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. Can you believe that they were doing this—even after they had been beaten and locked up!

Suddenly, there was a big earthquake. It was so strong that it shook the

Lesson Goals

Understand how to trust Jesus
Sing songs and pray when hard times come
Tell other people about Jesus

whole jail. Then all the doors of the jail broke open. All the prisoners were freed from their chains too. The jailer woke up and saw that the jail doors were open. He thought that the prisoners had already escaped. So he got his sword and was about to kill himself. (Back then if a prisoner escaped from jail, the jailer had to die for his mistake.)

Paul shouted to him, "Don't hurt yourself! We are all here!"

The jailer couldn't believe it. Paul was right. Everyone was there. Then he began to shake. The jailer saw that God did an amazing thing. He asked Paul and his friends how to trust Jesus.

They said, "Believe in Jesus—that's how you trust Him with all your life." The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house and washed their cuts. Then he and the other people in his house were baptized because they trusted Jesus with all their lives.

Wow! The next morning news spread and the rulers decided that Paul and Silas should be released. They were free to go home! God did a miracle.

Even in jail Paul was telling people about Jesus. Paul knew wherever he went that he must tell people about the best news of all—Jesus. He could have been really mad about being in jail—but instead he sang songs—even after being beaten and chained to blocks. He showed Jesus' love even in a dirty prison cell.

Teachers—Make the most of every opportunity with the kids—this may be the week that they trust Jesus with all their lives! Be ready!

Learning Activities

Look at the packet of material to find the activities that would help your kids learn about Jesus.

Memory Verse Activities

Ask the kids how they can be right with God. (The answer is in the memory verse.) Point to your mouth and heart as you say the verse. You may draw a mouth and a heart and use them as visuals to convey the verse.

Prayer Time

Sing a prayer today. Use a familiar tune like "God is so good" or "Jesus loves me" and make up the lyrics—to be a prayer to God.

Clean Up/Snack time

Share snacks and listen to the children to see their needs.

Planning for May 16th
People in Berea search the Scriptures
Acts 17:10-12

Preschool Lesson
For
A Jailer Believes in Jesus

One time, Luke, Paul, and Silas traveled to tell more people about Jesus. Some of the men did not like what Paul did so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the town rulers. They said, “These men are making trouble in our city. They are teaching things that are not right for us.”

Paul and Silas were thrown into jail. The jailer was ordered to guard them carefully so he put them far inside the jail. He locked their feet between large blocks of wood.

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. They knew that God would take care of them.

Suddenly, there was a big earthquake. (Make rumbling noises) It was so strong that it shook the whole jail. Then all the doors of the jail broke open. All the prisoners were freed from their chains too. The jailer woke up and saw that the jail doors were open. He thought that the prisoners had already escaped.

Paul shouted to him, “Don’t hurt yourself! We are all here!”

The jailer couldn’t believe it. Paul was right. Everyone was there. Then he began to shake. The jailer saw that God did an amazing thing. He asked Paul and his friends how to trust Jesus.

They said, “Believe in Jesus—that’s how you trust Him with all your life.” The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house and washed their cuts. Then he and the other people in his house were baptized because they trusted Jesus with all their lives.

Wow! The next morning news spread and the rulers decided that Paul and Silas should be released. They were free to go home! God did a miracle.

Even in jail Paul was telling people about Jesus. Paul knew wherever he went that he must tell people about the best news of all—Jesus. He could have been really mad about being in jail—but instead he sang songs. He showed Jesus’ love even in a dirty prison cell.

Thank God that He loves us.

Talk about what song that the kids think Paul and Silas sang. Then, sing that song together!

Hands-On Activities
For
The Jailer Trusts Jesus

Bring various old keys to give to the kids as a reminder of the lesson. When they see the key, they can remember to be thankful and be glad even in hard times like Paul and Silas.

Make chains out of fruit roll-ups.

Bring copies of a key (on a piece of paper). Talk about how Jesus is the only “key” to Heaven. Share how believing in Jesus we have life forever with God in Heaven.

This is a great lesson to act out! Have fun and sing songs to God.

Paul and Silas were not angry or upset that they were in jail. Instead they sang songs to God and trusted Him. Sure enough, God took care of them AND someone believed in Jesus because of their attitude.