

# A SOLDIER BELIEVES

A Philippian Jailer  
Acts 16:16–40

Early Childhood  
Lesson 13

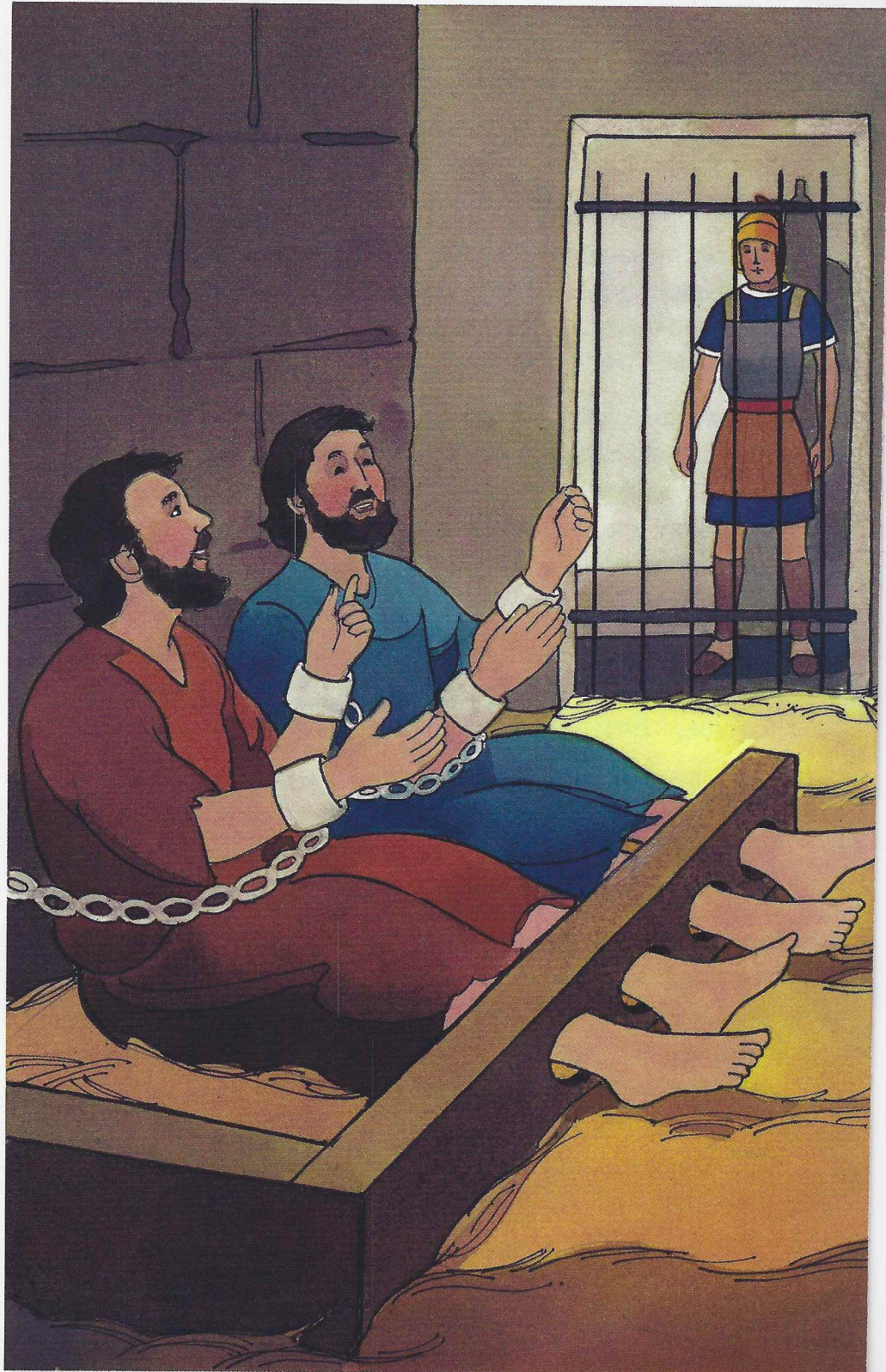
## Storytelling Directions

*Emphasize the story actions  
in italic and have child(ren)  
repeat the words or  
do the actions.*

**D**o you remember Saul? He was Jesus' enemy, but Jesus changed Saul's heart, and Saul became Jesus' friend. Jesus wanted Saul to tell people everywhere about Him. So that's what Saul did. Saul had another name too. It was Paul.

One time, Paul took a helper named Silas to a country far away. They went to tell people about Jesus. At first, the people were nice to them. But then some bad men grabbed Paul and Silas and took them to the city officials. They said, "These men are troublemakers." The officials tore Paul and Silas's clothes. *Rip!* They had them beaten. *Slap!* Then Paul and Silas were thrown in jail. *Bang* went the cell door. Their hands were chained to the wall and their feet were in big blocks of wood. Poor Paul and Silas!

I wonder . . . what will they do? Let's find out. *Turn the page.*





Paul and Silas didn't cry. They weren't afraid or worried. They knew Jesus still loved them! Instead, they prayed (*fold hands*) and sang songs to God while the other prisoners listened. Paul and Silas knew that Jesus was with them and would take care of them.

Then, in the darkness of the night, they heard a rumbling sound that got louder and louder. *Rumble, rumble*. What was happening? God had sent a big earthquake to shake the jail. (*Shake.*) All of a sudden the doors of the jail flew open. *Clang, clang*. The chains and wooden blocks fell off Paul and Silas and the other prisoners. *Click, clack, bang*.

The big noise woke the guard at the jail. He saw all the doors open and thought the prisoners had run away. "Oh no! I'll be punished for letting them get out," he thought. But Paul called out to him, "Don't be afraid! We're still here."

The jail guard got a torch and ran to the cells. He was thankful to see Paul and Silas were still there! He said, "Come with me. I'll take you to a safe place." The jail guard probably heard them singing and praying earlier in the night. When they were safe, he asked the two men, "Please tell me. What must I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas told him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." That answer is for you too! Let's say the words together: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

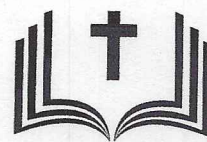
The jail guard took Paul and Silas to his home. Paul and Silas told the guard and his family about Jesus, our Savior, who loves everyone. They told how Jesus died and came alive again to save all people from their sins.

*Splish, splash* went the water. The jail guard washed Paul and Silas's cuts and put bandages on them. *Splish, splash* went the water. Paul baptized the jail guard and his whole family! Now the jail guard and his family believed in Jesus as their Savior. Their hearts were full of joy because Jesus had taken their sins away! Now they were God's children. Hooray!



## Parent Talk

Paul and Silas trusted in God so that even in terrible circumstances, they were able to pray and praise Him, confident of His love and care. Because we are still sinners, we still experience troubles and have fears in this life. Remind your child that those who believe in Jesus can always find a reason to be happy, even on bad days, because Jesus is always with us. He gives us His Spirit and strengthens us through Word and Sacrament so that even in bad times, we can remain sure of His love and can witness that confidence to others.



## Bible Verse: Acts 16:31

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for making me Your child. Thank You for being with me in good times and bad times. Help me trust in You always. Help me share with others the joy I have in knowing You as my Savior. Amen.



# A SOLDIER BELIEVES

A Philippian Jailer  
Acts 16:16–40

*Today I learned . . .*

**God loves me even in times  
of trouble and gives me joy in  
Jesus that I can share  
with others.**

Paul and Silas had troubles, but they didn't despair. God was with them and freed them from jail. God freed the jail guard and his family in a different way. He rescued them from sin, death, and the devil through Jesus. God is with us in our troubles too and gives us peace and joy in Jesus that we can share with others.

## Let's Talk about It

- Where are Paul and Silas?
- How does God help them?
- What does Paul tell the jailer?
- What happens to the jailer and his family?



Connect the prison bars and color the chains and blocks of wood. Add a Jesus sticker. What did Paul and Silas do in prison? How did God help them?

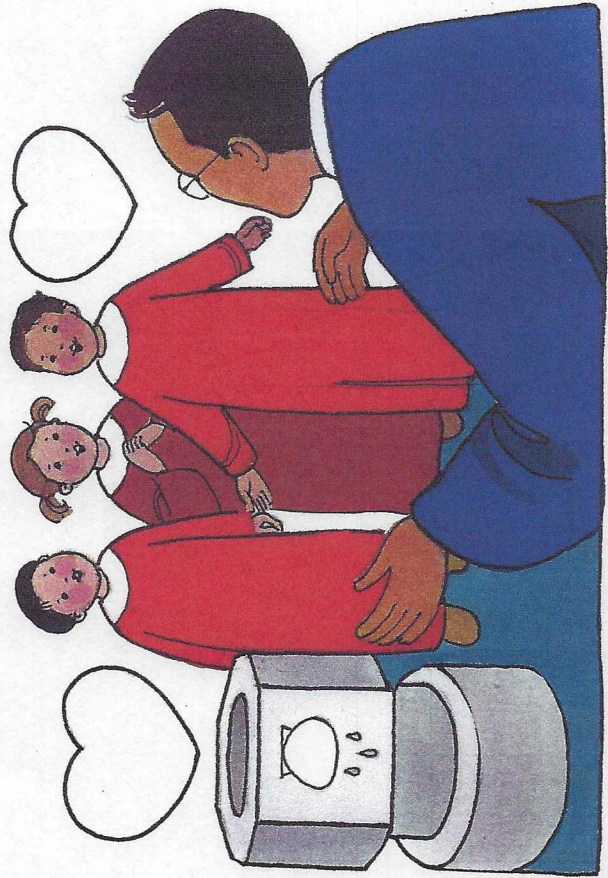


# Leo's Day

Leo knows Jesus is with him, in good times and bad times. How does Leo share His joy in Jesus with others? Color the hearts as you talk about the pictures.



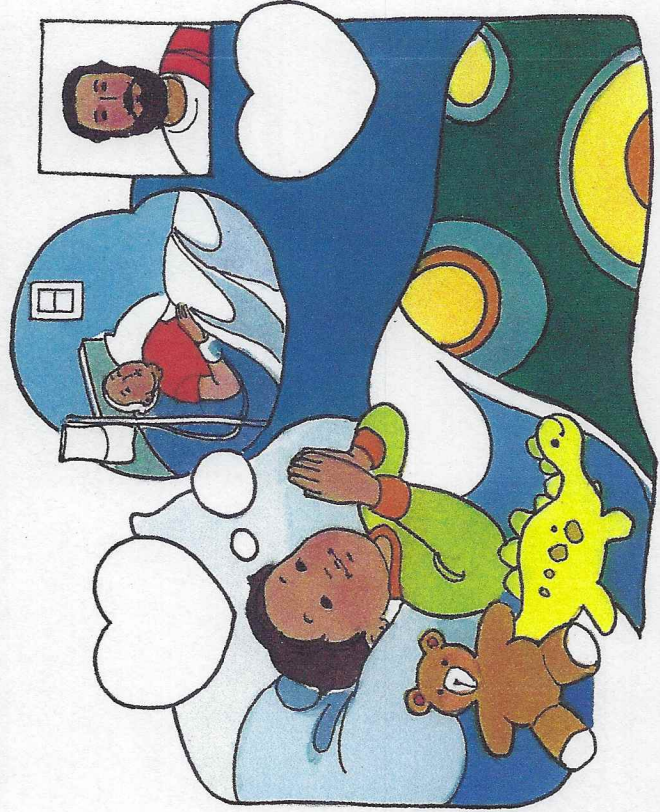
Leo learns about Jesus' love in the Bible. Leo likes to tell his family and friends how Jesus died on the cross for us.



Leo likes to sing about Jesus' love. When Leo has a bad day, he remembers God loves him and made him His child in Baptism.



Jesus' love helps Leo to be kind to his friend Ella. Leo tells her that Jesus is our Savior. You can tell others too. Whom will you tell?



Leo prays for his grandma. He knows Jesus will help her. Jesus is with Leo, in good times and bad times. Jesus is with you too!



PAUL



Paul loved God so much he was willing to stand up for God.  
2 Corinthians 11:22-28

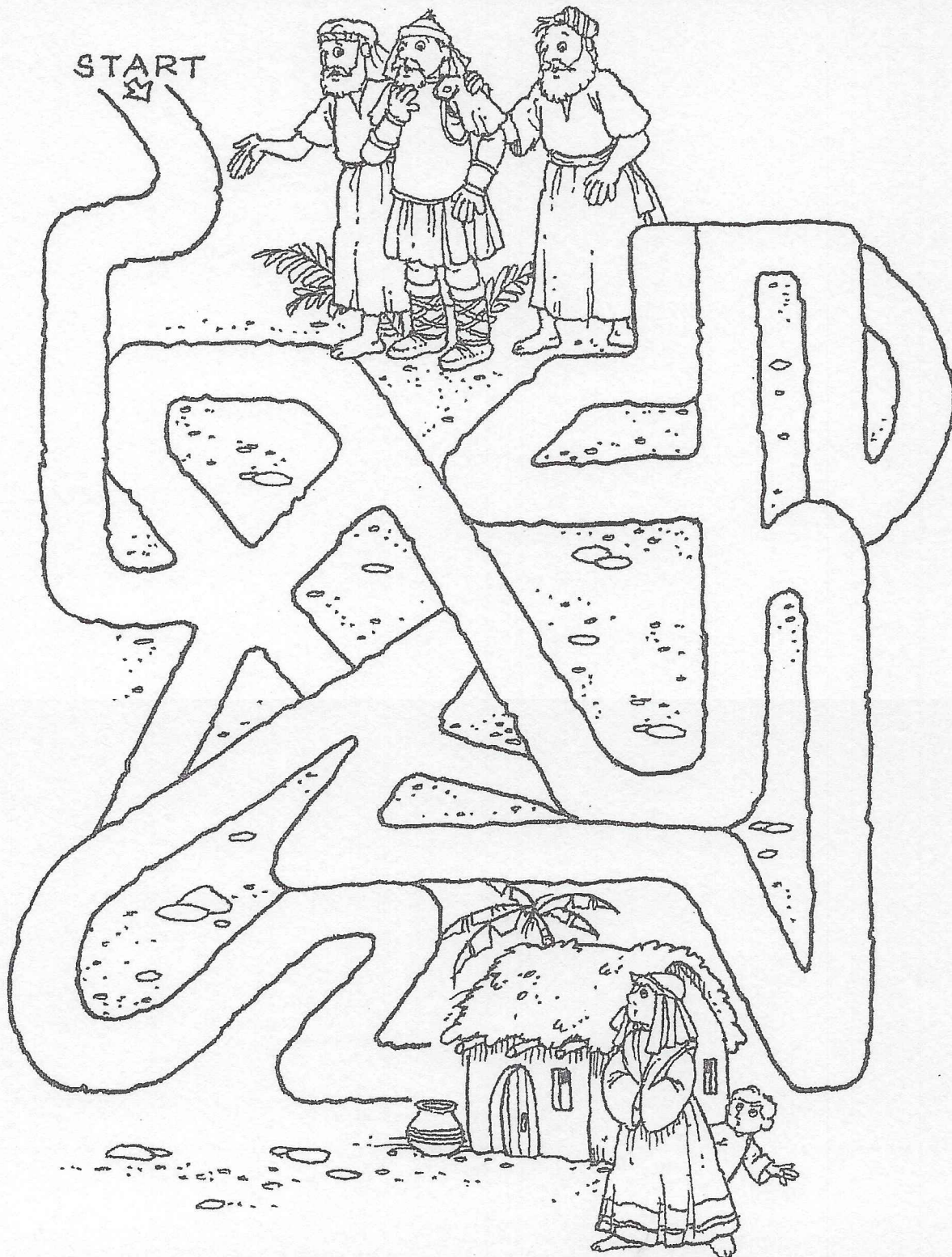


# PAUL AND SILAS

(Acts 16:16-34)

Paul and Silas were in jail for preaching about Jesus. They prayed and sang, and their chains fell off! Their jailer wanted to be saved, so Paul and Silas told him and his whole family about Jesus.

Help Paul, Silas, and the jailer reach the jailer's house.





# PAUL AND SILAS

(Acts 16:16-34)

Paul and Silas were in jail. They prayed and sang, and their chains fell off! Their jailer wanted to be saved, so Paul and Silas told him and his whole family about Jesus.

Connect the dots.

