

Story: **The Philippian Jailer**

Bible Reference: **Acts 16:19-3**

YOU WILL NEED: *A Bible Story bag made of the slips of paper at the end of this lesson.*

## **The Philippian Jailer**

SAY: I want you to help me tell a story about a man and his family who gave their lives to Christ.

Pass out the slips from the “Bible Story Bag.” (See the end of this lesson for the contents of this.) If you have a class large enough, use two bags. If you have extra slips, give more than one to each student, but make sure all the slips are passed out. If you don’t have enough, let the kids share.

SAY: In a moment I am going to read a story that’s from the Bible. On your slip(s) you have a word to listen for. When you hear that word, out loud and as fast as you can, say the other word.

*(NOTE: For Kindergarten and even first grade, you will have to help your kids know what is written on the slip of paper. Then practice it with them several times so that they know what word(s) belong to them.)*

*Example: Your card says, “Listen for: JAILER / Say: THAT’S ME!*

Practice each of the following parts:

Jailer—That’s me!

Prison—Uh oh!

Earthquake—Whoa!

Prisoners—We’re bad men!

Girl—I’m free!

Paul and Silas—We follow Jesus!

Beaten—Ouch!

Magistrates—We are important people!

Stripped—Close your eyes!

Said—Talk to me!

Flogged—Hey, that hurt!

Singing—La, la, la!

Jesus—He’s the best!

Stocks—How am I suppose to sleep like this!

SAY: Two men named Paul and Silas, who loved God and served God had been telling people about Jesus. They had traveled a long way for a long time, and they had just helped a slave girl, but helping her upset her owners. Now listen close and get ready to do your parts, and remember you may need to do your part more than once.

*(Pause after the words in bold. These are the ones that cue the students' part, which are indicated below.)*

### **Acts 16:19-34**

When the owners of the slave **girl** (I'm free!) realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized **Paul and Silas** (We follow Jesus!) and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the **magistrates** (We are important people!) and **said** (Talk to me), "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

The crowd joined in the attack against **Paul and Silas** (We follow Jesus!), and the **magistrates** (We are important people!) ordered them to be **stripped** (Close your eyes!) and **beaten** (Ouch!). After they had been severely **flogged** (Hey, that hurt!), they were thrown into **prison** (Uh oh!), and the **jailer** (That's me!) was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the **stocks** (How am I supposed to sleep like this!)

About midnight **Paul and Silas** (We follow Jesus!) were praying and **singing** (La, la, la) hymns to God, and the other **prisoners** (We're bad men!) were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent **earthquake** (Whoa!) that the foundations of the **prison** (Uh oh!) doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The **jailer** (That's me!) woke up, and when he saw the **prison** (Uh oh!) doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the **prisoners** (We're bad men!) had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

The **jailer** (That's me!) called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before **Paul and Silas** (We follow Jesus!). He brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord **Jesus** (He's the best), and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the **jailer** (That's me!) took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The **jailer** (That's me!) brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

SAY: Even when bad things happen, God is with you and because He is with you not only can you have peace, you can also **make the choice to rejoice**.

Have your class REPEAT:  
Make the choice / To rejoice!

Split them into two sides. Have one side say, "Make the choice," and the other side call back, "To rejoice." Go back and forth three times to see which side can be the loudest.

SAY: When things don't seem to go your way, just trust (Have your students repeat: Just Trust) and make the choice to rejoice because...

SAY: You can always rejoice in God, no matter what is happening because Jesus will never leave you. He'll never let you down. You'll never regret following Him with all your heart...no matter what circumstances you may find yourself in.

---

### Bible Story Bag labeled "Bible Story Bag"

*Each class should get two bags of the following slips of paper printed and cut out.*

Listen for: JAILER / Say: THAT'S ME!"

Listen for: PRISON / Say: UH OH!

Listen for: EARTHQUAKE / Say: WHOA!

Listen for: PRISONERS / Say: WE'RE BAD MEN!

Listen for: GIRL / Say: I'M FREE!

Listen for: PAUL AND SILAS / Say: WE FOLLOW JESUS!

Listen for: BEATEN / Say: OUCH!

Listen for: MAGISTRATES / Say: WE ARE IMPORTANT PEOPLE!

Listen for: STRIPPED / Say: CLOSE YOUR EYES!

Listen for: SAID / Say: TALK TO ME!

Listen for: FLOGGED / Say: HEY, THAT HURT!

Listen for: SINGING / Say: LA, LA, LA!

Listen for: JESUS / Say: HE'S THE BEST!