

Lesson 24: A Prison Guard Belives in Jesus

Acts 16:16-34

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/lyNxdGqrX-w>

Worship Theme: God uses his power to reach us.

Memory Verse: “They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”” (Acts 16:31)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. Praise Jesus's name <https://youtu.be/uA448Ncse8Q>
2. I Am Happy <https://youtu.be/2LWPsq-KZvo>
3. I Trust You Lord <https://youtu.be/WCZlwstAzc>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: Attention!

Materials Needed: Balloon



1. When the children come in, let them talk and be noisy.
2. Then, grab the balloon and pop it! Now children will pay attention to you.
3. Ask the children why they are paying attention.
4. Explain to the children that just like how the sound of the balloon popping got your attention, God gets our attention and reaches out to us in powerful ways.

Introduction:

Did it scare you when the balloon was popped? Sometimes, God uses his power to get our attention. Why does God want to get our attention? He wants us to know that he is God. He wants us to know that he loves us.

Do you ever feel that God is too far away to understand you and help you? Do you ever feel that you have a problem that God can't help you with? If you ever feel that way, you're not alone. Sometimes we might feel that God couldn't possibly help us. But God can help us, and sometimes he does it in unusual ways. Let's find out how God used his power to help some people in the bible.

Bible Story:

Our bible story today tells about Paul and Silas who were thrown into prison for preaching about Jesus. They were beaten and wrongly accused, but they worshipped God instead of being angry and upset. They sang all night to praise God even when they were in jail. The bible says that other prisoners were listening to their praises. And a powerful thing happened because they chose to praise God even when they were suffering!

God caused a great earthquake to shake the jail until the doors flew open and everyone's chains fell off. When the prison guard saw this, he was terrified. He knew that he would be blamed for all the prisoners escaping, and they will kill him for that! So he decided to kill himself. But Paul and Silas didn't run away. They stopped the prison guard from hurting himself and told him about Jesus. The prison guard believed what they said about Jesus. He was so happy to hear about Jesus that he took Paul and Silas to meet his family. Everyone in his family believed in Jesus, and everyone was baptized.

God used his power to show everyone who was in prison that he was real! God used his power to set Paul and Silas free. But God also used his power to help the prison guard come to know Jesus.

God uses his power to help us, too. Sometimes we have situations that we need Jesus' help. Maybe you or someone you know is sick and needs healing. Maybe people in your family don't know Jesus. Even when you feel like God is too far away to help you, God is right there with you. And God will use his amazing power to help you, just like he caused an earthquake to help Paul and Silas and to help the prison guard believe in Jesus!

Questions to discuss:

1. Who were sent to prison for preaching about Jesus? (Paul and Silas)
2. What did God do to free Paul and Silas? (he caused an earthquake and set all the prisoners free)
3. After seeing the jail doors open, what did the prison guard try to do? (he tried to kill himself)
4. Why did the prison guard invite Paul and Silas to his house for a meal? (because he was thankful to believe in Jesus)
5. How do people hear about Jesus? (Sunday school teacher, pastor, parents, and many others)
6. What are some other ways God can use to help us? (sending an angel, through the bible, through strangers or friends, etc.)

Game: "God Knows Where We Are"



1. Sometimes people wander away from God. But God uses his power to reach us and bring us back to him.
2. The teacher will pretend to be God, and the children pretend to wander away from God by hiding somewhere in the room.
3. Give children some time to hide in the room (they could just sit facing the wall with their eyes closed).
4. The teacher will walk around the room and look for the lost children. When the teacher calls the child's name, the child should join the teacher to look for other "lost children."
5. Explain to the children that even when they feel lost, God knows exactly where they are just like how the teacher knew where all the children were.
6. Don't forget that God knows where we are, and he uses his power to help us.

Memory Verse: "They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."" (Acts 16:31)

Craft: Paul and Silas Coloring Page

Please print the coloring page and ask the children to write their memory verse.

Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

Sometimes, we want to experience God, but he feels very far away. Today's bible story tells us that God is always reaching out to us. He even caused an earthquake to reach out to Paul and Silas. In the same way, we need to reach out to people in our lives to share the Good News of Jesus. Pray for the children whom you will be teaching today. Ask God to open their hearts so that they can experience God in their lives.



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