

Kid's Slot ~ Jan. 22 – 28, 2012

GO TELL
the story of Jesus

Go and Tell Your Family!

OVERVIEW: Children will learn how wonderful it is to share the Good News of Jesus with your family

PREPARATION: You will need brown construction paper or you can use a brown paper bag. Cut football shapes for each child to take home; NIV Bible

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: Acts 16:16-33

Ice Breaker: Ask: What is something that your whole family likes to do together?

Read: A Changed Man, a Changed Family (Bible Story on the other side)

Questions to ask:

1. Why were Paul and Silas thrown in jail? *Because they were telling people about Jesus*
2. What did they do while they were in jail? Complain and yell to be set free? *Nope, they sang songs and shared with the prisoners and guards about Jesus, even though they were locked up in chains*
3. What unusual thing happened at midnight? *An earthquake broke down the walls and opened the doors of the jail*
4. What did Paul and Silas do? *They stopped the jailer from killing himself and instead told him about Jesus; and he became a Christian*
5. What did the jailer then do? *He brought Paul and Silas to his house, put medicine on their wounds and fed them. He woke up his family so all could hear about Jesus*
6. Did his family think he was crazy bringing prisoners to his own home in the middle of the night? *Nope, they knew he was a changed man through Jesus Christ and they too became Christians and were baptized.*

7. What about YOUR family? Is there someone you need to pray for and share Jesus with who is not a Christian yet? *Let the children share...*

Bible Memory Verse: "Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and your family will be saved." **Acts 16:31**

Bible Memory Verse Activity:

1. Let each child say one word until the scripture has been repeated.
2. See how fast each child can quote the verse.
3. See which child can quote the Scripture the fastest.
4. See how slow each child can quote the verse.

ACTIVITY: Upcoming Super Bowl Weekend FRAN

Have the children write down on their footballs the names of their

FRIENDS, **R**ELATIVES, **A**SK SOMEONE AT SCHOOL, **N**EIGHBOR they need to invite to the upcoming Super Bowl weekend on Feb. 4th & 5th. Keep praying that they will come to hear the Good News about Jesus.

Prayer Time: Ask the children to write down the names of the people in their **family** that need to know about Jesus. After everyone has had a turn to share, pray over each name aloud this prayer:

"Lord, I give you my family member _____. I pray for a chance to share Jesus so _____ can know and love Jesus like I do."

Return to Life Group: As you return to the Life Group, share a bit about the story and how the jailer loved his family so much that he shared the Good News of Jesus with them – even if it was midnight. Let the children recite their Bible Memory Verse. Bring out the footballs and the names of the family members the children are praying for to be mentioned as they close the group in prayer.

A Changed Man, a Changed Family

Paul and Silas were on mission for Jesus? They travel all over, walking or riding on donkeys, telling people about Jesus. They would do anything and go anywhere to make sure everyone heard the Good News. Sometimes, going different places to tell different people didn't go over so well. In some cities, some people were happy to learn about Jesus; other people got angry. Those people liked doing wrong things and didn't want others to tell them that Jesus would forgive them, because they didn't want to stop doing the bad things that they were doing!

One day a man in the town where Paul and Silas were telling people about Jesus got very angry at what Paul and Silas were saying. He didn't like them sharing about Jesus and wanted them to stop. The best way to get them to stop was to have them arrested and thrown in jail. That way, they couldn't share the Good News with the rest of the town. So, Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten and thrown in jail. The jailer was told by his boss that if Paul and Silas escaped, he would be killed. So to make sure they didn't get away, the jailer locked their hands and feet in chains, so they couldn't run away.

Now, they sat on the cold floor of the jail, with chains on their hands and feet. They were hungry and hurting but you know what? That didn't stop them from sharing with the other people in jail. And do you know what else, they prayed and sang songs to God because they loved HIM and knew he was there with them even if they were not in their favorite place. Do you know God is with you even when you are sad or scared?

That night, all the prisoners AND the guards could hear Paul and Silas singing and sharing about Jesus. As the prisoners and guards fell off to sleep, all of a sudden, a great earthquake caused the walls of the jail to shake. The prisoners, including Paul and Silas, were suddenly free, since the chains were pulled from the walls and the doors were flung open due to the trembling.

Suddenly, the jailer was awakened from his sleep and realized that his 2 special prisoners, Paul and Silas, must have surely gotten away, since the doors were open and the walls were down. As he grabbed his own sword to take his life, since he remembered what his boss had told him about what would happen if the prisoners escaped, but Paul and Silas suddenly shouted to him that they were still there in

the jail and had not run away. The jailer quickly called for lights, so he could see for himself, and Paul and Silas were indeed still in jail, even though they were free and could have easily walked right out of the jail. It was at that moment that the jailer KNEW the reason Paul and Silas were so kind and stayed behind to talk with him...it was so he could know about the same Jesus they had been singing about and telling others about all night long.

So right there, in the middle of the night, the jailer asked how he could be saved and Paul and Silas explained that he needed to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and when he did, he would be saved...and his household! My family, he thought? My family needs to know about Jesus, too!!! So guess what that jailer did? He took Paul and Silas home to his family in the middle of the night and had them explain all about Jesus to his wife and children so they, too, could become Christians. The jailer cleaned the wounds of Paul and Silas, gave them some food, and put medicine on their backs – the same backs he had beaten with whips just hours before. Yes indeed, the jailer was a new man...and guess what else? His whole family became believers and were baptized THAT NIGHT! What a difference God had made in the jailer and his family. He knew that the Good News that Paul and Silas had shared was too good to keep to himself, he just had to share it with his family – even if it was the middle of the night!

What about you? Do you have family members that you need to share the Good News about Jesus with – today? Don't wait another day. They need to hear how Jesus changed your life today! And when you do, you will see a change in them just like you saw the change in the jailer that night...

Isn't that a wonderful story because the jailer loved his family so much, he wanted them to love Jesus too, so he and his whole family could live together in heaven – forever!

