

Paul and Silas: Lesson 1

SuperTruth: God's Spirit directs and empowers me.

SuperVerse: *Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.* Galatians 5:25 (NLT)

Bible Story: Acts 16:1-34

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1-6

Today we start a new Superbook adventure about two men named Paul and Silas. In our story, Paul and Silas made plans to travel to different places; yet, sometimes they weren't allowed to go!

- Paul and Silas preach by a river in Philippi, where they baptize Lydia and her household.
- Joy is upset because she must have her tonsils out. Superbook takes Chris, Joy and Gizmo to Philippi, where Paul casts a demon from a fortune teller. He and Silas are arrested, beaten, and thrown in prison—yet still they praise God. They don't try to escape after an earthquake, knowing the jailer would be executed. Moved by their faith, the jailer is saved and baptized, along with his entire family. Joy decides to be content despite her circumstances.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1-6

Game: Watch Your Step! (15 minutes)

Objective: *Travel as Paul and Silas did to bring the Gospel.*

- God's Spirit directed Paul and Silas where they should go. Paul and Silas willingly changed their plans to follow God's Spirit as He empowered them to set people free by the power of Christ!

Game Instructions:

- Players bat the balloons a partner as they travel together to the other side of the course. Just as Paul and Silas were forbidden to go into certain areas, you cannot step onto any rug or towel or leave the playing area. You can only hit the balloon twice before passing it to your partner.

Teaching: Led by the Spirit (15 minutes)

Objective: *Discuss How God Guides Us.*

- As believers in Christ, we must choose to follow our own selfish desires or to obey Him. We must decide to follow God's leading not just once, when we get saved—but moment by moment.

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)

- The chain reminds us that Jesus sets us free from sin so we can freely serve Him. Take this chain home, and try to memorize SuperVerse #1, do Challenge #1, and tear off those links.

SuperVerse: Superbook Conductor (5 minutes)

Objective: *Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.*

- God has given us His Word to follow—like a band follows the music—He wants to direct our lives. We want to watch God very closely to see how He is directing our lives so that we will please Him in all we do and say, every day of our lives.
- Our "music" will be our SuperVerse on the board. I will be the conductor, and I will direct one person at a time to say just one word of the verse. You will have to watch me carefully, because you never know who I will choose next!

Prayer: Direction Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: *Communicate with God.*

- The Holy Spirit can speak to us in various ways: through God's Word in the Bible, in dreams, visions, or simply by speaking to our hearts. The important thing is to give God the opportunity to speak to us each day; to listen and follow His leading.
- Close your eyes and be still before God. Give Him a moment to speak to you. I would like you to pray silently and ask God to help you to listen to Him in all areas of your life, no matter where you or what you are doing. Allow children time to pray silently and then close in prayer.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

Action Game: Play a game to move forward with God's Spirit. | **Grades 1-6** | 15 min

Following Activity: Children obediently follow different paths. | **Grades 1-6** | 10 min

Maze Activity: Choose the right paths to travel Paul and Silas' journey. | **Grades 1-3** | 10 min

Bible Study: Discuss the Holy Spirit's guidance in various areas of our lives. | **Grades 4-6** | 15 min

Game Materials Needed:

- Six rugs, bedsheets, bath towels or beach towels – one type or a combination
- Masking tape or painters tape
- One balloon, plus extras
- Permanent marker
- Timer, such as a stopwatch, clock or watch with second hand, or timer app

Teaching Materials Needed:

- 5-6th grade helper or an adult volunteer
 - Rope or jump rope – about 10 feet long
 - Whiteboard or chalkboard, marker, or chalk
 - Bible or the Superbook Bible App
- Discipleship Challenge materials:
- Iron Link Challenge Page
 - Scissors
 - Glue sticks
 - Pencils
 - Optional: gray or silver crayons, colored pencils, washable markers

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Sticky note
- Bible – NLT version
- Whiteboard or chalkboard, marker, or chalk
- Eraser

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App