

Paul and Silas: Lesson 2

SuperTruth: I will rejoice and be content.

SuperVerse: *Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.* | Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)

Bible Story: Acts 16:1-34

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

As followers of Christ, we have many reasons to rejoice and be content, regardless of any situation or circumstance we find ourselves in. When we are content and full of joy, others want to be around us.

- 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.
- In today's Bible Background Video, we'll learn more about Paul, Silas, and their missionary journeys.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Paul's Journeys (15 minutes)

Objective: *Travel to share the Gospel and avoid being arrested.*

- As the apostles went about preaching the Gospel, they often faced opposition and persecution from religious leaders or city officials.

Game Instructions:

- You are traveling with Paul from city to city to preach the Gospel. Your goal is to avoid being caught and arrested by the soldier who has been sent by the religious leaders. The soldier will close his/her eyes and slowly count aloud to ten. As the soldier counts, you will quietly move to the city sign of your choice. Now, remember to move very quietly so the soldier can't hear you!

Teaching: Ups and Downs (15 minutes)

Objective: *Discuss being thankful and content in all circumstances.*

- Paul and Silas could have escaped after the earthquake—yet they were content to stay, knowing God had placed them there for a purpose. They rejoiced and were thankful even inside the prison with their feet in stocks.

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)

- Tear off and do the next two links of the chain. Look for things you can be thankful for. Ask God to help you be content and rejoice in His goodness, even in hard times.

SuperVerse: Superbook Correction (5 minutes)

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

- Paul and Silas knew they were in jail because God had a purpose for them. They were thankful God was using them to bring the Good News to others.
- As children cover their eyes, use the list to change one word of the SuperVerse on the board to alter the meaning of the verse, then have the children look at the board and raise their hands to tell you what word should be fixed. Write in the correct word, then repeat the process.

Prayer: Thankful Prayer (5 minutes)

Objective: *Communicate with God.*

- Paul and Silas were thankful in all circumstances. Around midnight, in prison, Paul and Silas were singing hymns and praying.
- Let's pray together and name things that we are thankful for. It could be for your family, or any other blessings. I will start, then {child's name} on my left will thank God for something, and we'll keep going all around the circle. If you prefer, you can just say "Thank you, God."

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

Action Game: Play a game to find and pass along joy. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Object Lesson: Discuss true satisfaction. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Coloring Activity: Color a picture of Paul and Silas rejoicing in prison. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

Bible Study: Discuss joy and thanksgiving in difficult circumstances. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

Game Materials

Needed:

- Four City Sign Patterns
- Painters tape or masking tape
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App
- Sixth grade helper or another older child to be a "soldier"

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Small step ladder; optional: use a step stool
- Chair
- Four City Signs on the wall from the Game
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App
- Iron Link Challenge Pattern
- Cardstock
- Pencils
- Sample Challenge Craft made in Lesson 1

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and marker; or chalkboard and chalk
- Eraser
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App