

# Inspiring Bible Characters

## Paul and Silas

In this week's study of inspiring bible characters, we look at Paul and Silas. As you probably already know, Paul was a champion in the ministry of Jesus Christ. He and Silas are trying to do the work of the Lord and they find themselves in a bad predicament because they have sought to do something that is good. In their story, we see how the Lord is able to sustain us during the difficulty we experience in life.

# Paul and Silas on a Mission

- Acts 16: 9-12
  - Paul is convinced through a vision that the Macedonians need help. Paul, feeling as though the Lord had called him to preach to them, leaves for Macedonia immediately.
  - Paul has a vision that the Macedonians need help. Instead of money, food, water, supplies or protection from an enemy, Paul assumes that the help they need is to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - Life Lesson: Sometimes, the best help you can offer to someone in need is to give them the Word of God. The Word of God will nourish a person for a lifetime.

# Paul and Silas meet Lydia

- Acts 16: 13-15
  - Lydia was worshipping God. Her heart was opened to God and then after understanding the Word, she and her household were baptized.
  - As Christians, we can have an amazing influence in our households. Like Lydia, if we open our hearts to God and earnestly seek Him, we could possibly convince members of our household to improve their relationship with Christ as well.
  - I know it is frustrating when there is a family member or loved one who is living their life without the Lord, we must continually work on ourselves and hope that the light they see in us will cause them to rethink their commitment to Christ.

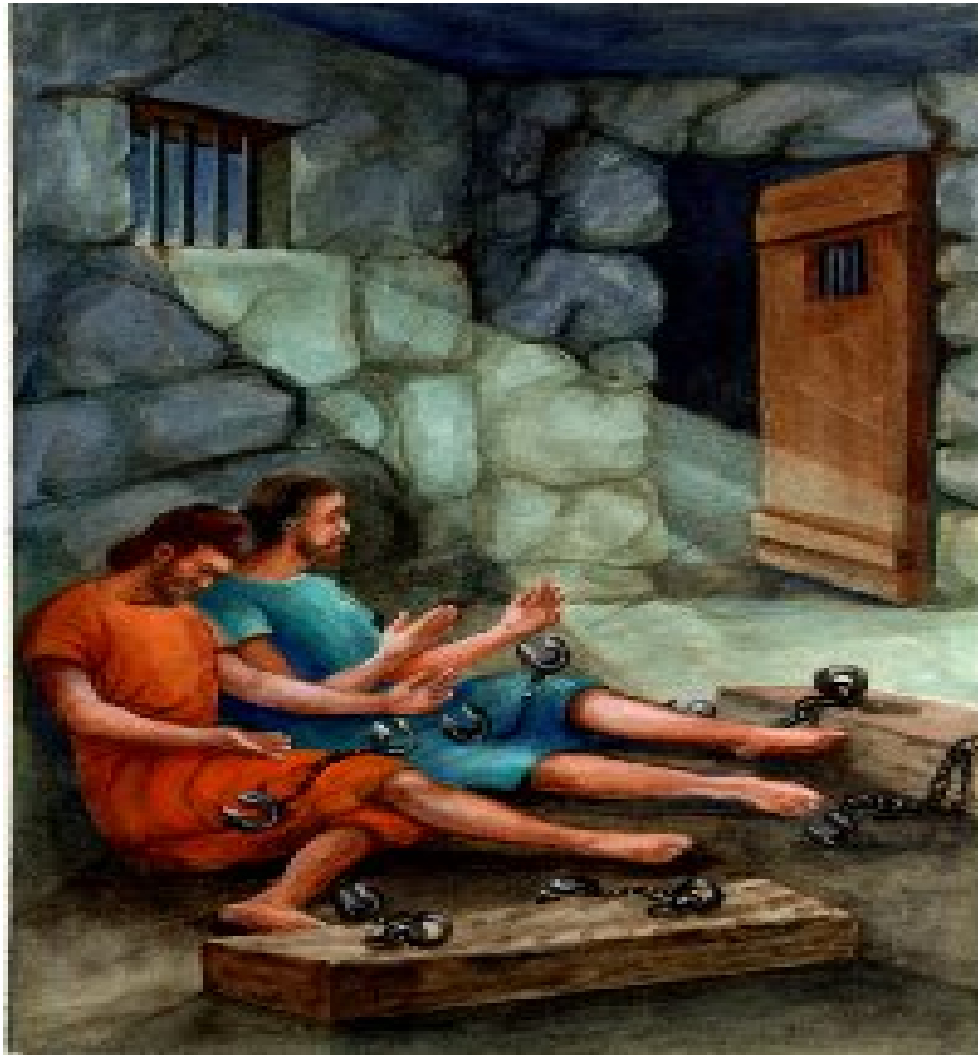
# Paul and Silas in Prison

- Acts 16: 16-24
  - Paul and Silas were humiliated, beaten and thrown into prison because they sought to do the right thing. Paul commanded the evil spirit to come out of the girl. The spirit fled and thus the girl's slave masters were without the opportunity to continue to make money off of her.
  - Question for Thought: Have you ever been punished, ridiculed or mistreated because you tried to do the right thing?
  - Life Lesson: In life, there may be times when bad things happen to you because you tried to do something good.

# Paul and Silas React

- Acts 16: 25
  - Paul and Silas react to their difficult time by praising God in the midst of their personal storm! They sing, they pray...even though they have been beaten and are in prison, they worship the Lord!
  - How wonderful it would be if we had that kind of attitude as we face the trials of our life. Sometimes we sing and pray when we're hurting, but we go through the motions. You get the sense at Paul and Silas are truly praising God for His power, His goodness and His mercy.

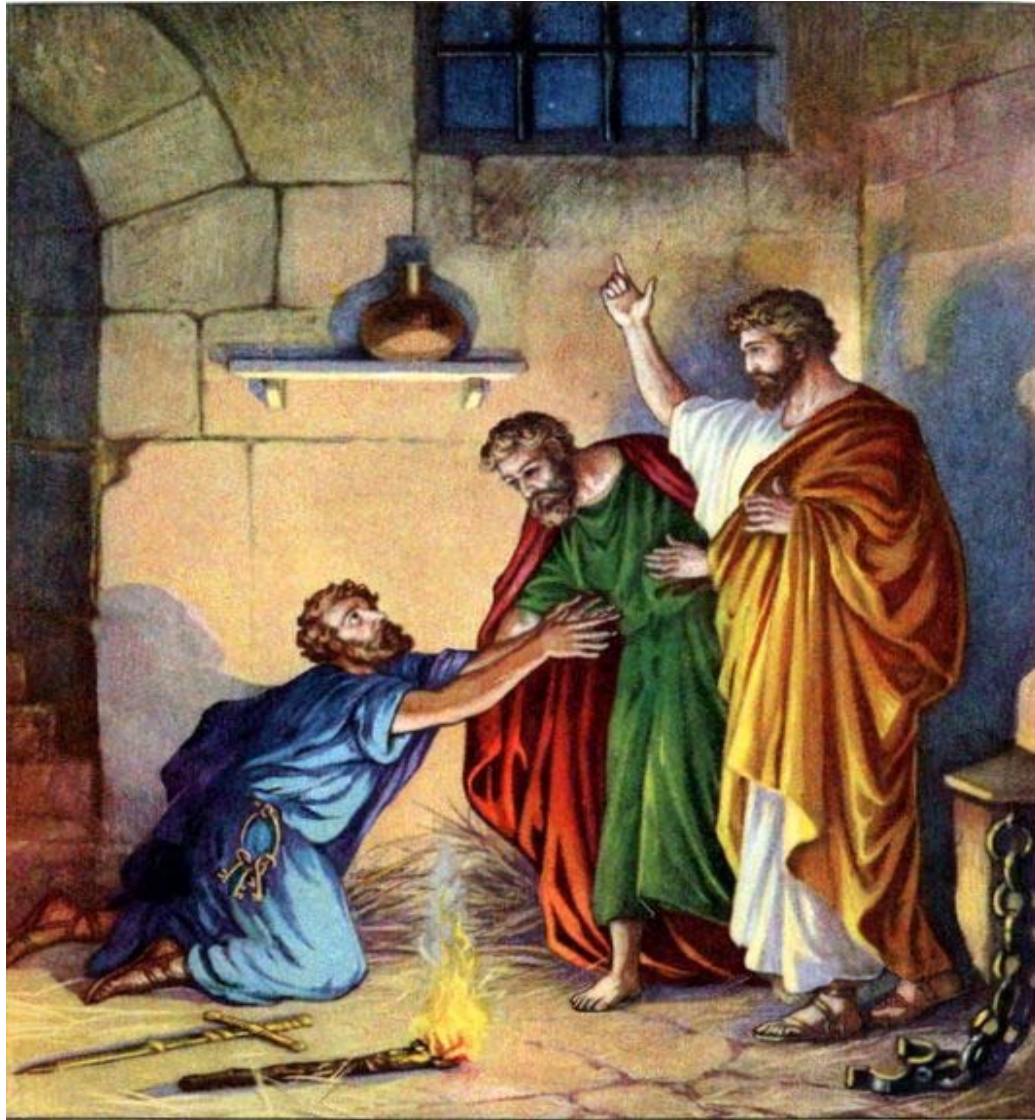
# Paul and Silas Sing and Pray...in the midst of their personal storm



# Others are Saved

- Acts 16: 26-33
  - As a result of seeing how God was working in the lives of Paul and Silas, the prison guard was amazed and he wanted to know God for himself. Paul and Silas ministered to him and his family and immediately he and his household were baptized.
  - Once again, we see the influence that an individual can have on his or her household. This should give us hope as we try to be a shining light to those we love. Maybe our connection to the Lord will inspire others to do better in their lives.

# Paul, Silas and The Jailer





# Paul and Silas Released

- Acts 16: 34, 35, 40
  - While Paul and Silas did endure difficulty, the Lord delivered them from their storm.
  - Life Lesson: Being a child of God, doesn't mean that you won't endure difficulty, hurt and pain in this life. It does, however, mean that having Him in your life gives you everything you need to come out of the storm and be okay. Difficulty in our lives is sure to come, but the Lord is able to deliver us.

# Paul and Silas Inspire Us To...

- Be obedient to the call of the Lord and minister to those in need
- Offer the Word of God as the best way to deal with the trouble that life brings
- Not give up on family members and loved ones who don't have God in their lives. Continue to be an example to them and you might find that they will get closer to God too
- Accept that bad things sometimes do happen when you are trying to do good
- Worship God genuinely and sincerely even during the toughest times in our lives
- Realize that God is willing and able to deliver us from the storms of our lives
- Understand the power that we have, through God, to positively influence another person's walk with the Lord
- See how praising God in the midst of our difficulty is extremely powerful in helping us to feel better and ultimately, in helping us to overcome our situations