

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS  
JULY 26, 2020

Did you get your God's eye made last week? If you would like to share your projects, we can hang them in the hallway near our meeting room when we return to the church building.

This week our Bible story introduces us to Silas, another of Paul's good friends. We are going to continue reading our Bible story right at the end of last week's lesson where we learned about Lydia's leadership. Paul and Silas stayed with her while they were preaching and teaching. Let's start by reading Acts 16:16-24.

Why were the men angry at Paul and Silas? How did Paul and Silas end up in jail?

Read Acts 16:25-28.

Back then, if prisoners escaped, the person in charge of keeping them in jail was expected to die for letting them get away. This is why Paul told the jailer that nobody escaped. How do you think the jailer felt when he heard what Paul said?

Read Acts 16:29-36.

How did the jailer respond to Silas and Paul's message about Jesus? How do you think Paul and Silas felt when they found out they were free? Why do you think the "authorities" released them?

Paul and Silas traveled and taught together throughout the region. They worked really well together. I want you to find a partner and see how well you and your partner can work together to tie a shoe, each of you using only one hand.

Now I would like you and your partner to sit on the ground or the floor back-to-back. Now work together to both stand up at same time without using your hands.

Last task, I would like one of you to describe an object without naming it. The other person will draw the object based on the description or what they think the object is.

How did you and your partner do together? Which exercises were easy? Which ones were difficult? Did one partner like some exercises better than the other partner? How do you think these exercises were like Paul and Silas working together?

Even the bravest people get scared sometimes. Paul and Silas were leaders through their courage, but even they needed God's help to be brave! We are going to make Encouragement Envelopes to remind us that God's power is in us too. I want you to write some words of encouragement on slips of paper. To help you out I will give you some suggestions.

I am worthy of praise.	I will keep calm.	I can accomplish good things with God's help.
Do the hard job first. The easy jobs will take care of themselves	In the middle of difficulty there is opportunity	It doesn't matter how slow you go as long as you don't stop

You can think of others, also. Place your slips in an envelope and write a short prayer on the back. You can keep your encouragement envelope in your Bible, by your bed or anywhere you think you might need a little encouragement.

How are you doing on remembering our Bible verse? ***God didn't give us a spirit that is timid but one that is powerful, loving and self-controlled. 2 Timothy 1:7***

Think about a time when you were timid or shy. What were you afraid of? What made you anxious? How did you respond?

Think about how you responded in the situation we just talked about. Maybe you responded just the way you wanted to. Or maybe you weren't feeling powerful enough to handle it how you wish you had. This is your chance to do that.

I want you to draw a picture of the situation. Start by drawing what happened. Now I want you to write the Bible verse on the picture. Now finish drawing the picture – but this time with the response that you wish you have given.

We can't go back and make ourselves feel more powerful, loving, or self-controlled in the past, but we can think about how we can change in the future,

Let's finish with a prayer. Thank you God for giving us examples of courageous leaders like Paul and Silas. Help us be encouraged to not be timid but to be loving, self-controlled and powerful knowing that you will always love us and guide us. Keep our families safe and we get through this troubling time. Amen.