

The Connection

▶ July 5, 2020

Weekly Bible Verse: Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31a-32 NIV

Paul and Silas in Prison

Scripture: Acts 16:16-34 Paul was a missionary. He and his friends (Silas, Timothy and Luke) travelled to many places teaching people about Jesus. When they were in the city of Philippi they liked to go to a quiet place by a river where people were praying. People there wanted to know more and more.

As they were leaving the city to go to the river a young slave girl began shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." Even though that sounded like a good thing she kept following after them and yelling the same thing over and over. Soon no one could hear Paul and his friends talking about Jesus because the slave girl was interrupting them with her shouting. Paul became annoyed but he knew the slave girl was not acting like she would normally act. An evil spirit was causing her to act this way. So he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her and she was herself again. The girl must have been happy but she was not free to go home. She was a slave. To be a slave is like having a boss and doing whatever he or she wants you to do all of the time but never being paid. But instead of a boss this person is called an owner. When the evil spirit lived in the girl people would pay the owners money so they could come and listen to the girl tell them what would happen in their future. The slave girl had to do what her owners said even when she was tired or

sick. The slave girl's owners were very angry that Paul made the evil spirit leave the girl. Without the evil spirit living in her she could not tell people's futures. If she could not tell the future then no one would pay them money. The girl's owners grabbed Paul and Silas and drug them to the market place in the middle of the city. Magistrates are like judges in a court so the owners started telling lies and complaining to the magistrates. The magistrates did not want any trouble so they



made a decision to put Paul and Silas in prison without even having a fair court trial first. The magistrates ordered Paul and Silas beaten and then they told the jailer (the man in charge of the prison) to guard them very carefully.

To make sure they did not escape the jailer had stocks put around Paul and Silas' feet before putting them in a prison cell in the middle of the prison. Then he locked the door. Paul and Silas must have been hurting from the beating and the prison must have been dark and scary. But they did not give up. In fact, in the middle of the night the other prisoners were surprised to hear singing and praying coming from

the middle of the prison. Even though all of these terrible things were happening Paul and Silas still trusted God and were glad that they were Christians. While Paul and Silas were singing hymns something amazing happened. A huge earthquake shook the entire prison. After the earthquake the chains fell off all of the prisoners and the cell doors flew open.

The jailer rushed into the prison and saw that all of the doors were open. He thought all of the prisoners had escaped and knew he would be in big trouble. He was so sure of this that he took out his sword and started to kill himself. But Paul shouted at him to stop. None of the prisoners had escaped.

The jailer knew that Paul had saved his life. He took Paul and Silas to his house so that Paul could tell him and his family about Jesus. The jailer decided he wanted to follow Jesus. He did not want to wait so he took care of Paul and Silas' wounds and then went immediately to be baptised. After they saw the jailer being baptised everyone in his household wanted to be baptised as well. Even though it had been a terrible night the jailer rejoiced because he and his household now believed in God and Jesus. The next day the magistrates decided to let Paul and Silas out of prison. Paul reminded them that it was against the Roman law for them to put a Roman citizen in prison without a trial. They did not want to get in trouble so they treated Paul and Silas very nicely. Paul and Silas visited with the other Christians in Philippi and then left the city to go and tell other people about Jesus.



Together

Together we can continue to make sure that children hear the stories of the Bible and of God's love and promises! Together let's keep doing kid's ministry at the time our kids need it most.

Additional Pages:

Coloring Page - July 4th & Paul and Silas (3 pages)

Word Search - 4th of July

Resources:

Paul & Silas - God's Story



"I Wonder" questions for Today's Lesson

I wonder what songs Paul and Silas sang in prison?

I wonder why nobody left when the earthquake opened the prison?

I wonder how the jailer's family felt?



- The stripes represent the original 13 Colonies.
- The stars represent the 50 states of the Union.
- The colors: red = hardiness and valor, white = purity and innocence, and blue = vigilance, perseverance and justice.

The freedom we celebrate was bought with blood. The citizens of America's thirteen colonies fought a long, hard war to win that freedom.

Many men gave their lives and shed their blood so that we could live in a land of freedom.

Jesus paid for our freedom from sin with his blood. He died on a cross so that He could set us free from sin. Nothing can be compared to the freedom in Christ. When Jesus sets you free, you are no longer a slave to sin. You have a new life, and you can have eternal life with Jesus.

Freedom



The Fourth of July is just another day to most of the world, but here in America, the Fourth of July is all about freedom. It's a national holiday. But more importantly, it's a day

we celebrate our freedom as Americans.

The Fourth of July, 1776, is the date marked on the Declaration of Independence, a radical document drafted by Thomas Jefferson to tell the King of England, "You are no longer our ruler!" It was a bold statement made by the

American colonies that led to the birth of our nation. The Declaration of Independence was only the start of our quest for freedom. Freedom is rarely bought with words, and the price of America's freedom was the blood of its citizens. Many men gave their lives for the cause of freedom, and many more shed their blood in that long fight. The Revolutionary War lasted five years before England finally gave up. The English went home, and America became a free country. This week as we celebrate the freedoms we enjoy, we should never forget that the freedoms we enjoy were bought with a price. The price of American freedom should also remind us of an even greater sacrifice: the one Jesus made for us on the cross. God made the ultimate sacrifice when he sent Jesus to die for us, and when Jesus rose from the dead, he won us a greater freedom than any government could ever grant its citizens. Jesus set us free from sin, and that's a freedom no power on Earth can ever take away from us!