

2024 - Family Devo

July 28 - a

READ: Acts 16:16-25

Main Idea: In Philippi as Paul and Silas would go to the place of prayer, a slave girl who was demon possessed would harass them. After many days of this annoyance Paul casts the demon out in Jesus name. The girl was now free from possession, but her slave owners were angry. They had been using her demon powers to make lots of money on fortune-telling. They retaliated by stirring up a crowd and getting Paul & Silas beaten and arrested by the authorities. But instead of being discouraged, these two missionaries are singing and praising God in prison later that night.

DISCUSS

Children: What can we learn from Paul and Silas being in prison? Even though people can be in physical bondage, spiritual bondage is worse. Dealing with sin is important. Knowing how to deal with sin and how to tell others how to deal with sin is part of sharing the gospel with others. If we can help others understand that Jesus brings freedom, then why would anyone turn Him away?

Teen: what should our response be when in a troubling situation? Why is it the right response?

Adult: Tribulations cause different responses in different people. Paul endured the girl's comments for many days before casting the spirit out; the crowd allowed itself to be incited to attacking; Paul and Silas prayed and sang in prison. What causes us to behave differently in the face of trials and persecution? Are you one of those people who remains calm and collected? If so, do you have special tools you use to do so? Are you someone who gets 'riled up?' How do you manage to settle yourself in these cases? Or do you?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 96:2 (ESV)
Sing to the LORD,
bless his name; tell of
his salvation from day
to day.



2024 - Family Devo

July 28 - b



READ: Acts 16:26-40

PRAY

Main Idea: While in prison about midnight God rescues Paul and Silas from with an earthquake. When the jailer sees this he starts to kill himself with his sword, probably thinking it would be his punishment for letting prisoners escape. Paul and Silas tell him to stop and assure him they are all still there. The jailer asks how to be saved and that was the very thing these disciples were eager to help him with. They tell him to believe in Jesus and upon doing that he and even his family are all baptized immediately. While away from the prison for the baptisms the jailer also takes Paul and Silas to his home and feeds them, before they return to the prison. What a night full of twists, turns, and irony.

DISCUSS

Children: Once a person believes in the Lord Jesus, is baptized and saved, then the chains of sin depart from us. The belief of Jesus allows us to stand before God and be free! Will we sin again? Yes, the chains of sin can come back to us if we do not watch what we are doing. This is why reading our Bible is so important. Choosing to walk in the ways of Jesus and being led by the Holy Spirit helps us to stay out of sin. The Bible tells us how to keep the chains off. It tells us how to live a righteous and free life. But if we ignore what the Bible says, or make excuses, or make bad choices....then those chains of sin can come right back to us.

Teen: Because of the faithfulness, the praise and worship, the obedience and character of these Christians a man saw God and he and his family were saved. Can our behavior as Christians bring others to Christ? Can it even with those who are set against us?

Adult: What do you think it was like for the other prisoners in that jail. They had been hearing Paul and Silas talk, pray and sing. We know they didn't escape when they had the chance. Put yourself into their shoes and assume your arrest was legitimate. Do you suppose Paul and Silas preached to them? Would you have wanted to know this God who gave Paul and Silas peace? How would you have reacted to the earthquake? Would you have tried to escape? Would you have wanted to hear more when even the jailer was convinced to be come a Christian? Would you have been jealous that you didn't get the special treatment that Silas and Paul got from the jailer?

MEMORIZE

Psalm 96:2 (ESV)
Sing to the LORD,
bless his name; tell of
his salvation from day
to day.

