



# The Story @ Home

**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**

Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2017-2018)

**Lesson #4-31**

**Acts 16:16-34**

## Last Week

Last week we met the apostle Paul and heard the story of his conversion from Saul on the road to Damascus.

## This Week

This week, we see how God miraculously delivers Paul and Silas from their prison in Philippi.

## Story Summary

Paul commands a spirit to leave a slave girl, angering her masters. They have Paul and Silas imprisoned, but Paul and Silas do not lose heart. They sing praises to God and pray throughout the night. An earthquake rocks the prison and causes Paul and Silas's chains to fall away and their prison doors to burst open. The jailer panics when the prison doors are opened, but Paul and Silas cry out for the jailer not to hurt himself. The two apostles are able to tell the jailer and his family about Jesus.

## Practice: Service

Sometimes simple actions mean the most. Remembering people who are going through difficult times can be a meaningful expression of service in the midst of dark times. Think of someone that you know is going through a difficult time. What can you do as a family to help them? Come up with a plan and carry it out.

## Next Week

Next week, Paul challenges the religious leaders to put their faith in a God who cannot be contained or restrained in a simple idol.

## The Point

God can even use the imprisonment of the faithful to bring about change in people.

## Bible Nuts & Bolts

### *Translation*

People began telling stories orally. When the Bible was first written down, the stories of the Old Testament were originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic, while the New Testament was originally written in Greek. According to Wikipedia, as of September 2016 the full Bible has been translated into 636 languages, with the New Testament alone translated into 1442 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1145 languages. However, translation always involves interpretation as well, and the meaning of words or phrases can get lost or changed. Studying scripture involves reading the words while considering context and culture as well.

### Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text speak to our theme that Good News Spreads?
- ✚ What does this scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

### Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

#### **Sunday—Read Acts 16:16-34**

Paul and Silas rejoice in the Good News.

Using couch cushions, build a jail and then break out when God sends an earthquake.

#### **Monday—Read Acts 16:35-40**

Paul is released from jail.

Have you ever falsely accused someone or been falsely accused? How did you handle it?

#### **Tuesday—Read Acts 10:1-23**

The conversion of Cornelius, part 1.

Gather stuffed animals. Use a towel or blanket to reenact Peter's vision.

#### **Wednesday—Read Acts 10:24-33**

The conversion of Cornelius, part 2.

Sometimes it is hard for us to believe that God saves all people. Pray for the people that it is difficult for you to love.

#### **Thursday—Read Acts 10:34-48**

The conversion of Cornelius, part 3.

Blow on each other and remind one another that you have received the Holy Spirit.

#### **Friday—Read Acts 17:1-9**

Paul goes to Thessalonica.

Paul and Silas continue to travel and tell others about Jesus. Walk through your yard and talk about Jesus with each other.

#### **Saturday—Read Acts 17:10-15**

Paul goes to Beroea.

Paul and Silas are stirring up trouble by talking about Jesus. They probably moved quickly from town to town. Move quickly from room to room in your house.