



## Paul and Silas Acts 16:16-40

Memory Verse  
Your word is truth.  
John 17:17 NIrV

I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.

Today's Bible story begins with two men named Paul and Silas.

Show Kids Image 1

Paul and Silas were friends with Jesus, and they loved God. They told everyone everywhere that Jesus wanted to be their friend forever.

Everyone, say this with me: "Jesus wants to be your friend forever!"

CHILDREN and LEADER: Jesus wants to be your friend forever!

LEADER: Great job! That's what Paul and Silas were doing. They wanted everyone to know that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.

One day, some people who did not love Jesus got upset with Paul and Silas. They tried to stop Paul and Silas by putting them in jail!

Show Kids Image 2

Jail is not a fun place. When you are in jail, you have to stay in the same room all day. You cannot play with your friends or see your family whenever you want. It sounds very sad, doesn't it?

But Paul and Silas knew God loved them, so guess what they did?

Show Kids Image 3

Paul and Silas prayed and talked to God.

Fold your hands like you are praying.

Can you fold your hands like you are praying? (Listen.) Yes, Paul and Silas prayed and talked to God.

And they also sang songs to God! Can you sing with me?

Sing a few simple notes for children to repeat, or consider singing "Jesus Loves Me."

Great singing! Paul and Silas knew that even though they were in jail, God still loved them, and they could pray and talk to God.

While Paul and Silas were praying and singing, everyone in the jail was listening to them.  
And then suddenly, the ground began to shake. It was an earthquake!

Can you shake your whole body?

**Shake your body.**

Oh, it's an earthquake! Whoa! And three ... two ... one ...

**Stop shaking and freeze**

**(Quietly.)** The earthquake stopped.

**Pause until everyone stops shaking.**

The earthquake shook the jail from top to bottom. And the doors of jail flew wide open!  
Paul and Silas could walk right out! But ... Paul and Silas did not leave. They stayed in the jail.

**Show Kids Image 4**

Paul and Silas spoke to the guard who was in charge of the jail.

**Show Kids Image 5**

They told the guard that God loves him and that Jesus wants to be his friend forever.  
And the guard decided to love God and follow Jesus too.

Wow! Paul and Silas knew they could pray and talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything, and we can pray and talk to God, too.

Tell me: can we pray and talk to God when it's early in the morning or late at night?

**(Listen.)** Yes! We can pray to God at any time of the day.

Can we pray and talk to God when we are at the doctor, at school, or at the fair?

**(Listen.)** Yes! We can pray to God wherever we are!

Can we pray and talk to God when we are feeling happy, sad, silly, or mad? **(Listen.)** Yes!

We can pray to God about anything!

We can pray and talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything, just like Paul and Silas! And we know this because we can read about Paul and Silas in the Bible.

The Bible has God's words in it, and it teaches us the BEST things! What does the Bible teach you?

CHILDREN and LEADER: The Bible teaches me the best things!

LEADER: Yes, The Bible teaches me the best things.

**Pick up and close Bible.**

**Prayer:**

Dear God, thank you for giving us the Bible so we can learn more about you. Thank you for hearing us when we pray. Help us remember that we can always talk to you—anytime, anywhere and about anything. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.