

YEAR 2

Unit 9 OUR PART IN GOD'S CHURCH

LESSON 3: LIVING OUT CHURCH - Paul & Silas



Connecting God's Big Picture

Paul and Silas

Session Overview



Objectives for the lesson:

1. To learn the story of Paul and Silas in jail.
2. To learn about historical and current persecution of Christians.

Learning outcomes for the lesson:

1. To understand the nature of the persecution of Christians.
2. To know the importance of praising God when times are hard.

GAMES



Suggested Games:

*'Jesus Hokie Pokie' * 'Build a Body Relay' * 'Spaghetti Challenge'*
(See the games sheet enclosed)



SONGS

Suggested Songs:

*'I will make you fishers of men' * 'Follow me' * 'I have decided to follow Jesus'*
(See the songs sheet enclosed)

Memory Verse

Memory verse for this unit:

'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' Matthew 28:19

(See the Memory verse sheet enclosed)



Bible Blast:

- **Key Passage:** *'Acts 16:16-36'*
- **Talk and application:**

(See the Bible Blast sheet enclosed)



Response:

- **Suggested activity:** *'Paul & Silas in jail'*
- **Key Questions:** *For different age groups*

(See the response sheet enclosed)



Reflect and Pray:

'Paper Chain Prayers'

(See the response sheet enclosed)

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Lesson 1: Building Church: call of the disciples
Lesson 2: People of Church: the body of Christ
Lesson 3: Living out Church: Paul & Silas
Family Service: The Great Commission



SONG SUGGESTIONS

1. 'I will make you fishers of men.'
Complete Junior Praise No. 123
(See video on Pinterest site Year 2 Unit 9)
2. 'Follow me'
Hillsong Kids Live Worship 'Follow me' CD
(See video on Pinterest site Year 2 unit 9)
3. 'I have decided to follow Jesus.'
Complete Junior Praise No. 98
(See video on Pinterest site Year 2 unit 9)

* please note: in order to use these songs you need to either buy the CD or download the individual song from itunes or go to the website provided.



Multimedia: Video songs on JIGSAW DDYC Pinterest site 'Year 2 Unit 9 Our part in God's Church'

Useful websites: www.missionpraise.com
www.gofishresources.com
www.elevationkids.com
www.childbiblesongs.com
www.itunes.com

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GAMES



GAMES

Ideas for fun ways to introduce the lesson:

1. Play '**Jesus Hokie Pokie**' Song/game. Play the video song from the  **Pinterest site Year 2 Unit 9 'Our part in God's Church'**. Get the children round in a circle, sing and follow the actions and directions on the song.
2. A game of '**Build a Body Relay**' - a different colour is assigned to each team, who then have to find and collect the body parts in their colour and stick them to a background. The first team to build the body and bring it to the leader is the winner. To do this, you will need: a background page for each team, paper body parts (2 arms, 2 legs, a torso and a head) making up one body for each colour - The body of Christ, all parts are needed and required.
3. Play '**Spaghetti and marshmallow building challenge**'. You will need: lots of long spaghetti and lots of marshmallows (mini ones are the best!). Get the children into teams; girls vs boys, eldest vs youngest, age groups, leaders vs children, etc. The task is to work as a group and build the tallest tower. It must be able to stand on its own strength. The winning team can eat their marshmallows!! Building team work and working together using their strengths as part of the group - part of the body of Christ.



**Free Games app on phone or tablet. Search Youth Group Games 'Tried and tested youth games'.*

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Memory
Verse

MEMORY VERSE

'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' Matthew 28:19

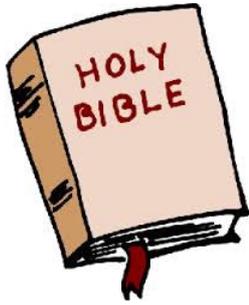
Ways to teach the memory verse:

1. **Memory verse 'Actions'**: Make up actions to the memory verse:
'Therefore go' - Bring arm around point outwards.
'and make disciples of all nations' - stand up like a disciple ready to march and bring hands round in the shape of the world.
'baptising them' - rock a baby in arms pouring water on head.
'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' - touch 2 fingers to side of head (for name), point up to heaven (Father), stretch arms out wide on a cross (Son) and bring hands down wiggling fingers (Holy Spirit).
2. **'Missing vowels, memory verse'**. Write the memory verse onto a large piece of card and leave out the vowels. Get the children to fill in the words. Read the entire memory verse together, then split it up phrase by phrase to learn. Then cover up the words until the children are able to say the memory verse without the visual being there.
3. **'Footprint' memory verse'**. Cut out large footprints and write the memory verse, in phrases, onto the footprints. Hide the footprints around the room. Ask the children to find the footprints and start to build it into the memory verse. Help the children by saying, 'What always starts a sentence?' - a capital letter, what do we put at the end of the verse?' - where it comes from, etc. Then say the memory verse and take random footprints away as they learn it.



Jigsaw

Connecting God's Big Picture



BIBLE BLAST

KEY PASSAGE: *Acts 16:16-36*

Background info:

Paul and Silas in prison:

Our story today takes place at the time when the early church was undergoing a time of persecution.

Paul & Silas, who travelled extensively to share the good news of Jesus, ended up on the wrong side of the authorities and were thrown into jail. They didn't succumb to fear and, while in prison, praised God because they knew they were not abandoned. As they praised Him, God acted and the prisoners were freed – the chains literally fell away. And because of their praise and witness, the prison jailer and his entire family were saved.

Paul & Silas's story speaks of the power that our witness in tough times can have.

This is the power that our witness can have in building God's church – it can break the chains of all the others around us. The witness of our persecuted brothers and sisters is incredibly powerful, as is ours when we can praise God in hard times.

In this lesson, we will remind the children and ourselves that in hard times, we can praise God because He has promised that He will never leave us – just as Paul & Silas did then and our persecuted Christian family do today.

Resources required:

Post-it notes and marker.



Alternative talk/VIDEO see Pinterest JIGSAW DDYC 'Year 2 Unit 9 Our part in God's Church'



Jigsaw

Connecting God's Big Picture

TALK

Did you know that you are very lucky?

You are very lucky because you are in church today! Seriously! And I am very lucky too, because I can tell you our story today in Sunday School!

Do you think this makes you lucky? You might after you hear this story!

Not long after Jesus was alive, there was a man called Paul. Paul had a bit of an interesting life story. When he was young, he was called Saul and he was a Jewish man who really hated Christians. You see, there was a while when it was really, really rough to be a Christian where he lived. The government didn't trust Christians, the Jews didn't trust Christians, and so they were treated with a great deal of suspicion. It even became illegal to meet up as a group to pray, and so many Christians had to go into hiding or else they could be sent to prison – or even stoned to death.

Saul was one of the people who chased down Christians to stone them, but suddenly things changed. He had an experience with God and his life would never be the same – he wanted to spend the rest of his life following Jesus, as a new person. So he changed his name to Paul and began to share God's good news with everyone.

Of course, this was dangerous, and lots of people didn't like this. But Paul kept travelling and spreading the news with some friends, and many people came to know God's love through them.

But they did get caught. In today's story, Paul & his friend Silas were caught sharing about Jesus, and they were arrested and beaten and thrown into jail.



***Can read the passage Acts 16:16-36 or show the great video God's story: Paul and Silas
Pinterest JIGSAW DDYC 'Year 2 Unit 9 Our part in God's Church'***

How would you feel if you had been put in jail? I would be terrified! I'm sure that Paul & Silas were scared too – but in our story, they don't show it. Instead of curling in the corner and crying, they sat in their cell and sang praises to God!

That might sound a bit strange. How can you be happy and sing when you're afraid? But when you think about it, it makes sense. Paul and Silas knew something very important. They knew, that even though this all felt terrible and things were awful, God would never abandon them. They knew that they could never be alone because God would always be with them, and that He wouldn't leave them in this awful situation.

As they were singing, something incredible happened, the jail began to shake! And as it shook, all their chains broke and fell away; they were free!

Even better than that, the jailer saw everything that was going on, and he knew that this amazing thing could only be the work of an amazing God.

Application:

It might seem very strange that people were thrown into prison for being Christians, but sadly in lots of countries people are still being mistreated because they love God. In some places, it's even illegal to go to church and, if people are caught owning a Bible, they can be sent to prison.

But even in these places, people still know how good God is and, just like Paul & Silas they keep on praising God. That's because they know what they did – that God will never leave them on their own.

Even when they are treated badly, they keep following God and that speaks so much about God's power and love to other people.

Just as the jailer came to Jesus in our story, people all over the world come to know Jesus because people keep following Him even when things are hard. And that is an amazing thing, in hard times, people see the hope there is in Jesus.

So it's important to keep praising God even when things are hard.

We can praise Him because we know He will never leave us on our own.

It's also so important to pray for other Christians around the world who are being mistreated, to ask God to strengthen them and remind them that He is always with them.

Let's pray.

Father God, thank you that we are never alone. We pray for all those who are being persecuted because they love you. Remind them that you are always with them. Help us all to be strong and to keep following you when things are hard. Amen.



RESPONSE

GROUP ACTIVITY & QUESTIONS

(Break into small groups, age appropriate, class or key stages)



See Craft worksheet: **Paul and Silas in jail**



KEY QUESTIONS

Age 5-7

What do you think jail was like for Paul and Silas?

How do we know that God is always with us?

How can we help Christians in other places who are treated badly?

Age 8-10

Is it hard to praise God when things are hard?

How can we know God is always with us?

Have other people ever mistreated you because you go to church?

What can we do to support Christians in places where they are mistreated?



REFLECT & PRAY

Paper Chain prayer.

Resources: paper strips and glue - to make a paper chain.

Go into the prayer area and give each child a strip of paper and glue. Together, you will make paper chains. As the children join their strips together, ask them to think about the people who are mistreated because of their faith. Pray together for those who are persecuted, and ask God for the strength to follow Him in our own lives.

Pray with the children - ask them to repeat the phrases after you:

Father, thank you for your love for us. (Children repeat)

Thank you that you will never ever leave us. (Children repeat)

Be with those who are treated badly because they love you. (Children repeat)

And help us to praise you when it's hard. (Children repeat) Amen.



Connecting God's Big Picture



Paul & Silas in jail

[Try and have one made to show the children]

MATERIALS:

- Paul & Silas template printed on card
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils, felt-tips etc
- Pencils to poke holes in card
- Thick wool (for the bars on the jail)
- Cellotape



See Pinterest JIGSAW DDYC 'Year 2 Unit 9 Our part in God's Church' for alternative ideas.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child Paul and Silas to colour in.
2. Use the pencils to poke holes as marked.
3. Thread the wool through and weave through.
4. Stick wool ends down on the back of the card with a piece of cellotape - please help little ones to do this, can poke through the wool using the tip of the pencil.
5. Use the discussion questions in the '**Response**' time to chat together.

Paul and Silas Template

Photocopy onto card

