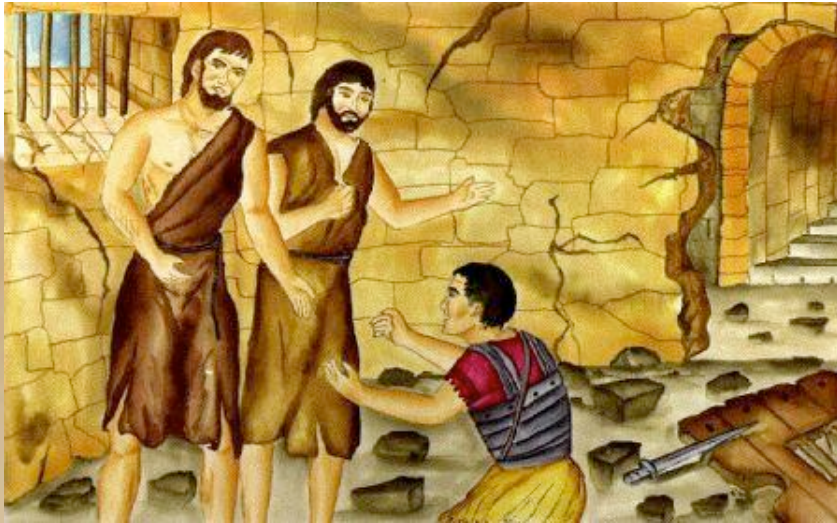


May 11, 2014

Lesson 30: Paul and Silas



Acts 16:16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much

annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

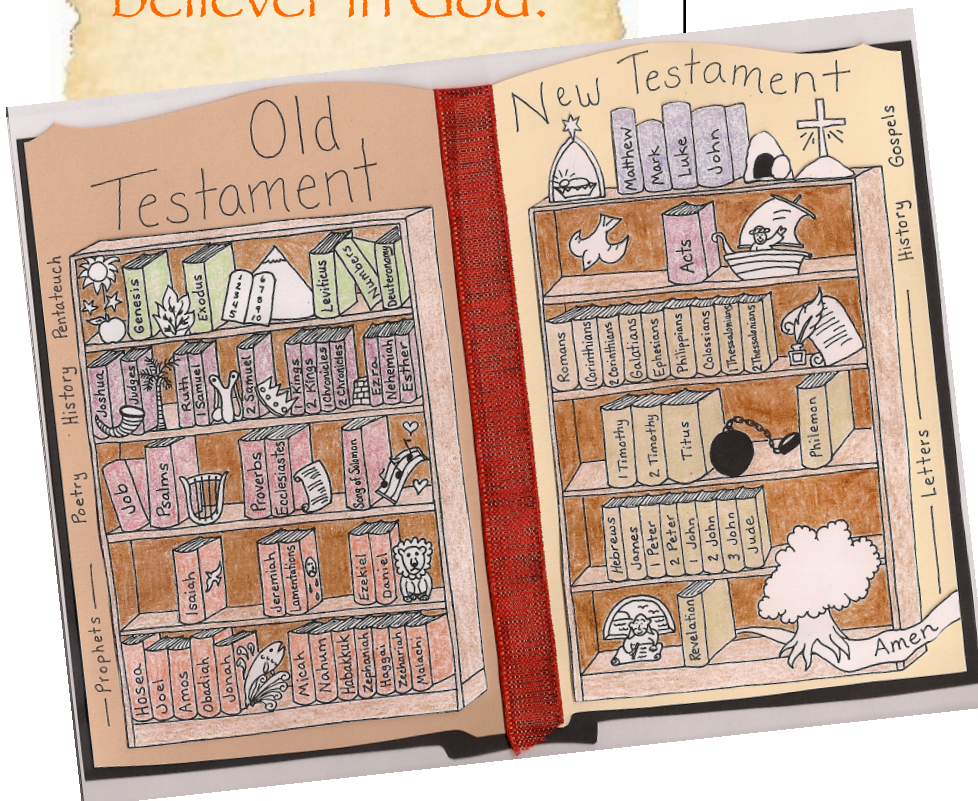
About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

May 11, 2014

The Big Story Truth: Believing in the good news of Jesus is a reason to celebrate!

About This Scripture Passage: In the dramatic exchanges around Saul becoming Paul, we heard the he would experience suffering for the sake of Jesus and the spread of the Gospel. Being thrown into prison was one of the unpleasant sides of being a missionary! But God made his presence known to Paul and to others around him even in these most desperate situations. Even though Paul and Silas had been shackled in the innermost cell of the jail, the earthquake God provided gave them their freedom. But the freedom was an occasion for something far greater even than their own escape. It was the opportunity for a unique encounter with the jailer who once he saw Paul and Silas and the power of God displayed for them, became a believer. The occasion for his belief was a celebration for the whole family... all of whom were baptized!

"He and his
entire
household
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believer in God."



Making the Connection: Throughout this year of Sunday School we have seen how God has provided life and all that is needed for God's people. Through the Gospel of John we saw how God provides the witness of Scripture and the gift of the Holy Spirit to create faith. Here now, we see that God provides witnesses to tell the good news so that even a jailor and his family join in becoming followers of Jesus! This last day of Sunday School is an occasion for us to celebrate with our kids that we too have heard the good news! Today is a day to rejoice in the gift of belief that we have been given!

Where in the World Are We? Paul's missionary endeavors have taken him to Philippi, where this story takes place.

For Your Reflection:

How does your family celebrate a special occasion like a birthday or a baptism?

Even though it has probably been years since you were baptized... what ways can you find this week to rejoice in the new life God has given you through Christ Jesus? What ways can you think of to help your kids celebrate too?



Large Group Lesson

Use your gathering time to practice any songs that you would like the kids to sing in church as part of a closing celebration in worship.

Practice the Apostles' Creed all the way through, particularly focusing on the third article (the section about the Holy Spirit) and its meaning from Luther's Small Catechism pages 14-15.

Show "God Picks Paul" (Episode 2 from Disk 11 of the What's in the Bible with Buck Denver DVD series.)

The DVD ends as if there is more yet to come. Be sure to tell kids that even though Sunday School is ending today, we will continue reading Paul's letters and hearing more about Paul's adventures in church next week and in the weeks to come! Remind them to come to worship to continue the adventure!

Snack Idea: Paul and Silas Music Notes and Prison Bars

Visit this website for a cute idea on serving pretzel sticks for prison bars!
www.churchhousecollection.com/paul-and-silas-in-jail-snack.php

OR

Plan a closing celebration!

Before students leave Sunday School today,
please be sure they get a note to take home
with all the details inviting them to
Vacation Bible School this summer!