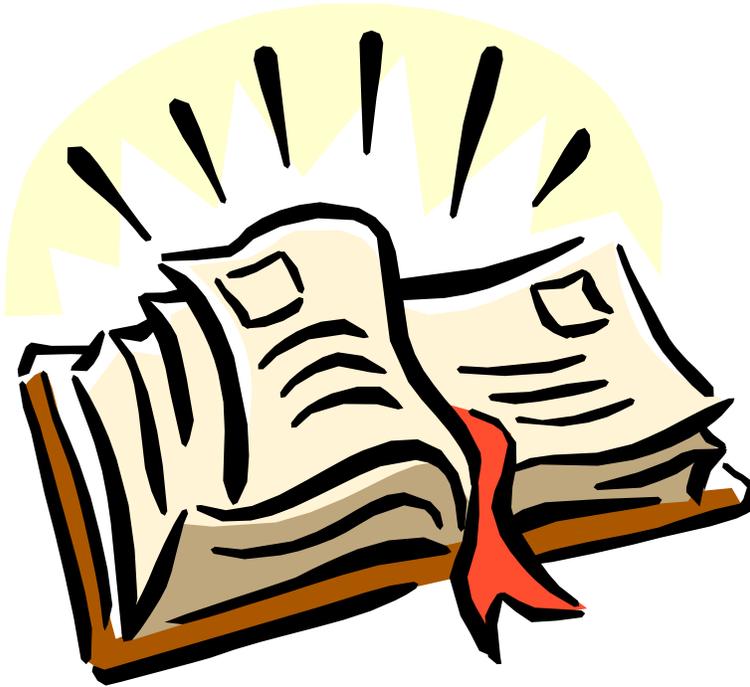


# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: Paul and Silas are  
Imprisoned**

**THEME: God is Always in Control!**

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 16:16-40**



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! This is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week we learned about Paul and Silas are Imprisoned. The theme was "God is always in control." For Paul and Silas the situation must have looked like it was out of control. They were beaten for their faith and thrown into prison. But God had everything under control. He caused an earthquake, released them from prison and even saved the jailer and his family.

Children can sometimes encounter things that are difficult trials. It is an important lesson to remember that no matter how bad things get, God is still in control. And the good news is that He causes all things to work together for good for His children. That's us if we know Jesus. What a great promise we have!

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 16:16-40**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

# God Controls the Details

**Text: Matthew 10:19** - "But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak."

**Also read Matthew 10:16-20; and Acts 16:16-24**

Paul, Silas and Luke were obedient to God's call to spread the gospel all over the world. They went where the Lord sent them. God had told them to go to the city of Philippi. They met and shared Jesus with a small group of Jewish people meeting near a river. Some of them believed in Jesus and a small church started in Philippi. But the enemy, the devil, doesn't like to see God's work move forward. So he used a slave girl who was under the control of a demon to follow God's servants and bother them. Well, they became very annoyed at this and Paul cast the demon out of her. But as soon as they cast this demon out of her, they are dragged off to prison. They were accused of keeping this girl's master from making money. Why do you think God would allow such a thing to happen?

We know as Christians that God is in control of all the details of our lives. Nothing is really by accident. We will see later that God had a reason for all of this. He knows what will happen in our lives. Sometimes things happen that we do not understand. Perhaps someone we love loses a job, or our best friend has to move away. One thing we can be very certain of in the middle of any trouble is the love that Jesus has for us. He loves us and is in control of everything.

Look again at our verses today. In Matthew, Jesus said we would have troubles, but He also said he would be with us and give us the words to speak in those times. He knows where we are all of the time. We can talk to Him at any moment and He hears us. He can answer our prayers in one second and even tell us what to say to others through His Holy Spirit, who lives inside the heart of every Christian. Paul and his friends seem to be in very big trouble but they know who to trust and they know He will save them. We should always know God is in control.

- Why did the leaders of the city beat Paul and his friends and put them in prison?
- When something happens that we don't understand, is God in control or out of control?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Control:** To be able to direct or influence something or someone.  
When we give our lives to Jesus, we give Him control over our lives. He will then influence us and guide us.

# Chained for Salvation

**Text: Acts 16:26** - "Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed."

**Read Acts 16:25-34; and John 3:16-21**

The rulers in Philippi did not treat Paul and his friends very well. When Paul and Silas cast the demon out of a slave girl, her masters did not care. They should have been happy for her, but all they could think about was the money they would lose because she could no longer tell people's fortunes. The city rulers beat Paul and Silas and threw them in prison for the good thing they had done. But Paul and Silas knew that God was still in control of everything. They gave their hearts to Jesus and He knew exactly what was happening. In fact they were not afraid or worried.

That night, at midnight they were praising the Lord, singing and praying. What faith they had in Jesus! They had been through a lot and they must have been very sore and tired. But they still kept their eyes on Jesus. God then delivered Paul and his friends from their chains and opened the prison doors. But the disciples stayed inside the prison to talk to the jailer—and he and his entire family are saved. Our Bible verses today tell us that the jailer himself took care of the wounds of Paul and Silas.

What a mighty God we have! Paul and his friends did not get released from the prison by the authorities, but God Himself made a way of escape for Paul. God was in control of the situation and Paul trusted in Him. The guard thought that he would be in trouble because the prisoners had escaped. But Paul showed mercy to the jailer, just as Jesus was merciful to us and died for our sins. He stayed there in the jail and the jailer was so amazed at seeing the Lord in Paul's life that he asked how he could be saved. Paul had the opportunity to share the gospel with him and his whole family ended up getting saved. Even though Paul and Silas had to go through a difficult time in jail, God still used it for good and brought the jailer and his family to salvation.

- Were Paul and his friends afraid?
- Who was in control?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Chained:** Imprisoned or bound. God has freed us from the chains of sin through the power of the Holy Spirit.

# A Witness of Jesus

**Text: Acts 16:39-40** - "Then they came and pleaded with them and brought *them* out, and asked *them* to depart from the city. So they went out of the prison and entered *the house of Lydia*; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed."

**Also read Acts 16:35-40**

Paul was put in jail for doing something good for someone, but God controlled the doors to the prison and freed him from jail. He then shared the good news of Jesus with the jailer and Jesus set the jailer free from sin and eternal death. Now we see Paul waiting for the city rulers to set him free legally. He could have just run away without anyone knowing, but they had put him in jail wrongly. He wants to make sure that the name of Jesus is cleared. He does not want the people to misunderstand what happened. So he refuses to leave until the rulers come and set them free in front of the entire city. Just the day before, they had beaten and thrown the disciples in prison in front of the whole city. Paul wants everyone to know they were innocent of any wrongdoing.

Now the city rulers are afraid that they might get in trouble. Paul was a Roman citizen and should have never been thrown in prison without a trial. That is what they did. Now the rulers could get sent to prison, or worse. But Paul does not really want to get them into trouble. He just wants to make sure that the rulers and the people know that they did nothing wrong and that the name of Jesus is cleared.

We also should think about our lives and whether they speak of Jesus. Is it important to us that we do the RIGHT thing so that others can see our lives and see Jesus in our lives? It was important to Paul to do the right thing for Jesus and it should be important to us. Let us make sure to ask the Holy Spirit to help us to do the right thing in our lives.

- Why did Paul and the disciples stay in the prison?
- Why would Paul want the whole city to see themselves freed?
- Could you stay in prison for Jesus?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Comfort:** Help and assistance. One who brings relief or well being. Jesus Christ is our comfort in times of trouble because He is always in control over our lives.

Day Four

# God Is In Control

**Text: Romans 8:28** - "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

**Also read Psalm 95:3-5**

"Hey Bible Boy! Why don't you go sit under a tree and have a Sunday school class or something." Joel's heart sank. He prayed a silent prayer under his breath and asked Jesus to help him get out of this mess. Billy Miller was the biggest bully in the whole school. Now he and three of his buddies were ganging up on Joel. Billy grabbed Joel's Bible and tore out some pages, let them fly in the air and threw the Bible on the ground. They all laughed at Joel and stormed away to create problems in another person's life.

Joel had been praying a lot lately about being bold in telling others about Jesus. And now this happens! Billy was even known to have tried to beat up some kids just because they were Christians. Well Joel had been bringing his Bible to school and reading it during lunchtime. One day Billy happened to see him reading his Bible and that is when it all began. Joel just began to pray and asked the Lord, "why is it when I try to be bold and do what is right that things just seem to get worse and worse?" He finished his prayer and went over to his friend Henry's house to play baseball. Henry was also a Christian and they talked about the problem with Billy.

"You know what Joel?" Henry said, "I remember from my Sunday School class last week about this story from Acts about Paul and his friend Silas." "What happened?" Joel asked. "Well Paul and Silas were telling people about Jesus and some people got mad and the city beat them and threw them in jail. Instead of getting mad Paul and Silas sang worship songs to Jesus. Then all of a sudden there was an earthquake that opened up the prison door. They were free! The jailer thought they escaped and was going to kill himself because he knew the city rulers would kill him for letting prisoners escape, but Paul and Silas stopped him and shared Jesus with him. He asked Jesus into his heart and his whole family got saved!" "Wow!" Joel replied. "I guess God was in control of the situation after all."

**Continued on Day Five.**

- What happened to Joel when he brought his Bible to school?
- Why do you think Billy was so mean?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Persecution:** The abuse or torture of others because of their beliefs or devotion to God.

Day Five

## God's Control Comforts

**Text: Psalm 135:6** - "Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places."

**Read Psalm 135:5-7**

**Continued from Day Four...** Joel felt much better after hearing the story that his friend Henry shared about Paul and Silas. Maybe God did have everything under control after all. "But it sure seems like Billy is the one in control sometimes," Joel thought to himself. Well Joel decided that no matter what he wanted to do what was important to the Lord so he decided that he would bring his Bible to school again, ripped pages and all, and read during lunch.

But what Joel did not know was that Billy was going through a very hard time himself. His mom and dad weren't getting along very good and were talking about leaving each other. Even though Billy was very tough on the outside, this made him very sad on the inside. On the day that he tore out the pages in Joel's Bible, Billy was walking home from school. He walked through the school field near the playground. He was thinking about his parents and everything that was happening. He said a simple prayer and asked God that if He were real would He just show Himself to him.

About that time he saw a piece of paper blow in front of his feet. It had red writing on it. He thought it looked interesting and picked it up. He read, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son..." The words just sank deep into his heart. All of a sudden it made sense to him that God sent Jesus to die on the cross for him and if he would believe he could have eternal life. "God had answered my prayer!" Billy thought. "He even used the mean thing I did to Joel today to speak to me."

As Joel was returning home from Henry's house he saw Billy. "Oh no! I didn't think I would have to deal with this again so soon." But was Joel ever surprised! Billy saw Joel and ran over to him. "Hey Joel, wait up for me" Billy came up to Joel and handed him the page from his Bible. He apologized for ripping it out of his Bible and asked him if he could tell him about Jesus. Joel shared with Billy about Jesus and Billy became a Christian. Joel learned that God has everything under control even when we think He may not.

### Kid's Prayer Time



Spend time this week praising God for watching over every detail of your life. Take time to thank God for the times He is near and helps you. Ask God to show you more of His love, comfort and protection. Pray that you could always remember that God is in control of your life.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"Believe on the Lord  
Jesus Christ, and you  
will be saved."**

Third Grade and Above

**"So they said, 'Believe  
on the Lord Jesus  
Christ, and you will be  
saved, you and your  
household.'"**

**Acts 16:31**