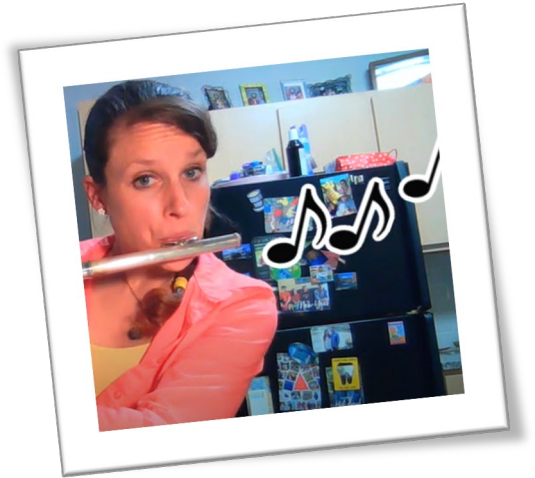

Midnight Karaoke Earthquake!

*Children's Sermon Lesson: Paul and Silas
Freed from Jail from Acts 16:16-34.*



Lesson Objective: Songs in jail? Rejoicing after being wrongfully arrested? The story of Paul and Silas in prison is an interesting look at a miraculous rescue and unique opportunity to share the Gospel. In this message, consider musical methods and situations that we might sing or make music. Describe how God wants to hear from us, even if we don't feel joyful. Any word or song we give Him is precious because He loves us. And we can rejoice to know that He is always with us, wherever we are!

Law/Gospel Theme: This story does not tell us that we always need to “put on a happy face” and ignore sorrow. Paul and Silas prayed and sang because they knew that God was with them, even in a dire and unfair situation. They clung to the hope they had in Jesus, and others noticed that. Not only did they eventually get released from prison, but the jailer (and likely other prisoners) recognized that something was different about these men, and listened to them share the good news of Christ. We can take comfort knowing that God is with us always, and He wants us to spread His love to others.

Optional Object Lesson Materials: Musical instruments or songs; noisemakers (optional: shackles/chains).

Bible Passage: Acts 16:16-34

More Teaching Ideas on Paul and Silas in prison

- Watch the [children's sermon video](#) and [Bible crafts ideas for this lesson](#)
- Compare our full [Sunday School lesson on Acts 16:16-34](#)
- Compare another [Bible Object lesson](#) on [Paul and Silas in Jail](#)
- Read [scripture quotes and Bible verses about singing](#)

Children's Sermon (Acts 16:16-34) Paul and Silas in Jail

Teacher Tips: As with most messages, the details of how you choose to communicate this are adaptable and should cater to timing as well as to your audience and student needs. This message begins with a reference to making music, which could be addressed with a musical instrument or singing.

Greet children, either with musical instruments of some sort or a song prepared.

Hello, children of God!

Do you like music? Have you ever played a musical instrument of some kind? I love music, and I think God enjoys it when we make a joyful noise to Him. I have some music items to show you today...

Display instruments, if you have them. Alternately, lead the students in a short song that all know. Now, when do you normally sing? Maybe in church and Sunday School, or at someone's birthday party, or in a program...or maybe in the shower! But do you ever sing when you're feeling sad? Or what about when something is wrong and you're in trouble? Those seem like odd times to sing. Normally we are giving thanks and praise to God with our songs, and you'd think that means something good should be happening.

Well, there's a story in the Bible about two people who were singing in a pretty tough situation. Their names were Paul and Silas. We've talked about Paul a little bit. He had a helper friend named Silas, and they actually got arrested for helping someone. The big church leaders did not like what they were doing and proclaiming in the name of Jesus, and they had them thrown in prison! Fortunately, I've never been in jail, but I think if I was arrested, I'd be feeling pretty low and upset, especially if I didn't do anything wrong to deserve it. But guess what Paul and Silas were doing late at night in the prison? They were singing! They were actually singing out songs in jail! I don't know how cheerful they felt, but they knew that they were doing the right thing by honoring God, and they wanted to offer up hymns and prayers, even though they were in rough circumstances. And something remarkable happened while they were singing and praying...an earthquake hit! The ground shook so hard that it bust the jail cell doors open. In fact, the man guarding the jail was so upset about prisoners escaping that he was ready to take his own life. But Paul reassured them that everyone was still there in the jail, and then told him about Jesus! Paul and Silas were ready to use any situation for the glory of God.

What does this story have for us though? Does it mean we should always rejoice and act happy and sing songs, even when we feel sad? No, not necessarily. We won't always feel happy, and we won't always want to sing. But we can pray no matter what, in any and every situation. And we can recall that God is with us all the time. He wants to hear our prayers, whether they are joyful songs of thanksgiving or prayers of genuine sadness. Prayers and praise might just get you out of trouble! But even if they don't, they will comfort you with the hope of Christ's constant nearness. We can rejoice in Him and share His love with others. And we can sing and make music! God loves our noise, however noisy it is. Songs and instruments are a great way to draw close to the Lord and remember His blessings, no matter how we might be feeling.

Why don't we say a prayer right now? (You don't have to sing, though.)

Children's Prayer Moment

(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for opportunities to share your love

And spread your good news to others

Help us to be bold in proclaiming our faith

Help us sing and rejoice in you no matter what

Thank you for being with us

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Bible Verses/story to Reference: Acts 16:16-34

16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and 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 bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. –Acts 16:16-34



Thank you for downloading these free materials. Our team is grateful for your trust and pray that God will bless your ministry.

This resource was prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#) (pictured right). She serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO. She has shared her teaching gifts through Ministry-To-Children since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.



Every week she writes new [Sunday School lessons](#), [Bible crafts](#), and [children's sermons](#).

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May 2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader. In addition to children's curriculum, she shares her student ministry activities and lesson ideas on [YouthGroupMinistry.com](#)

My name is [Tony Kummer](#) (pictured below). I started Ministry-To-Children.com in 2007 as a free resource for anyone sharing Jesus with kids. I am building three new websites. One is called [Ministry Answers](#) to help Christians find answers in God's Word. The other two are [Devotional Christian](#) and [10 Bible Verses](#) to help you focus on personal prayer and quiet times.



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Tony Kummer