

# Paul and the Jailer at Philippi

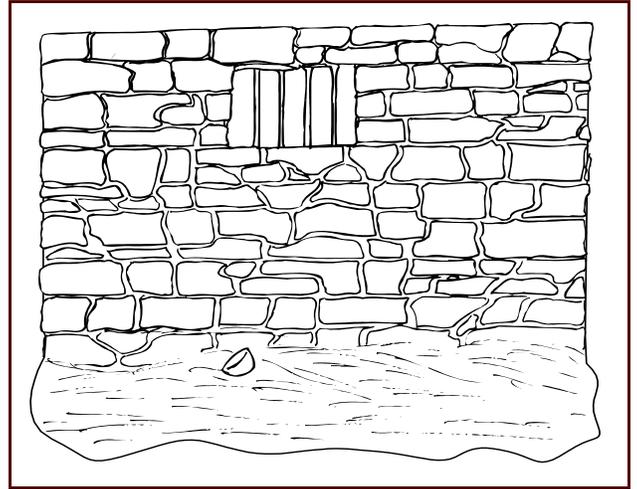
Acts 16:9-40

Does this prison look like a good place to spend time?

Today we will hear about Paul and Silas going to prison and how God used them in prison to spread His Word.

## Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, on that great mission to save us from our sins. Thank You for showing us the importance of needing a Savior. Please open the hearts of unbelievers in all places to recognize the fact that they are powerless to save themselves. Finally, please continue to provide pastors and teachers of Your Word so that all may be brought to repentance and the knowledge of their salvation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



## Acts 16:9-40

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." {10} Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

{11} Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, {12} and from there to Philippi,

which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. {13} And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. {14} Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. {15} And when she and her



household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

{16} Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. {17} This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." {18} And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. {19} But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

{20} And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; {21} "and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." {22} Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. {23} And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. {24} Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

{25} But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to

them. {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. {27} And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. {28} But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

{29} Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. {30} And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

{31} So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." {32} Then 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 stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. {34} Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

{35} And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go."

{36} So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace."

{37} But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come

themselves and get us out."

{38} And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. {39} Then they came and

pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. {40} 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.

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**Outer Aim - God used Paul to teach about Jesus and salvation to a prison warden and then to his family.**

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**Review** - Answer the following questions from the Bible lesson.

1. What happened that Paul decided to go to Macedonia?
2. Who was the first Christian in Macedonia to be baptized with her household?
3. Why were Paul and Silas thrown in prison?
4. How did Paul and Silas glorify God in prison?
5. How did Paul convince the jailer not to take his own life?
6. What important question did the jailer ask Paul and Silas?

7. After the jailer was converted, how did he treat Paul and Silas?
8. What was the reason Paul did not want to leave the city secretly?
9. Where did Paul and Silas go after leaving prison?

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### Inner Aim

**God sends believers into the world with the Gospel message in order to rescue those lost in sin.**

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### What Did You Learn?

1. What should you do with the knowledge of your salvation?
2. Where and when might you have opportunity to do this?
3. Even what should not prevent you from doing this?

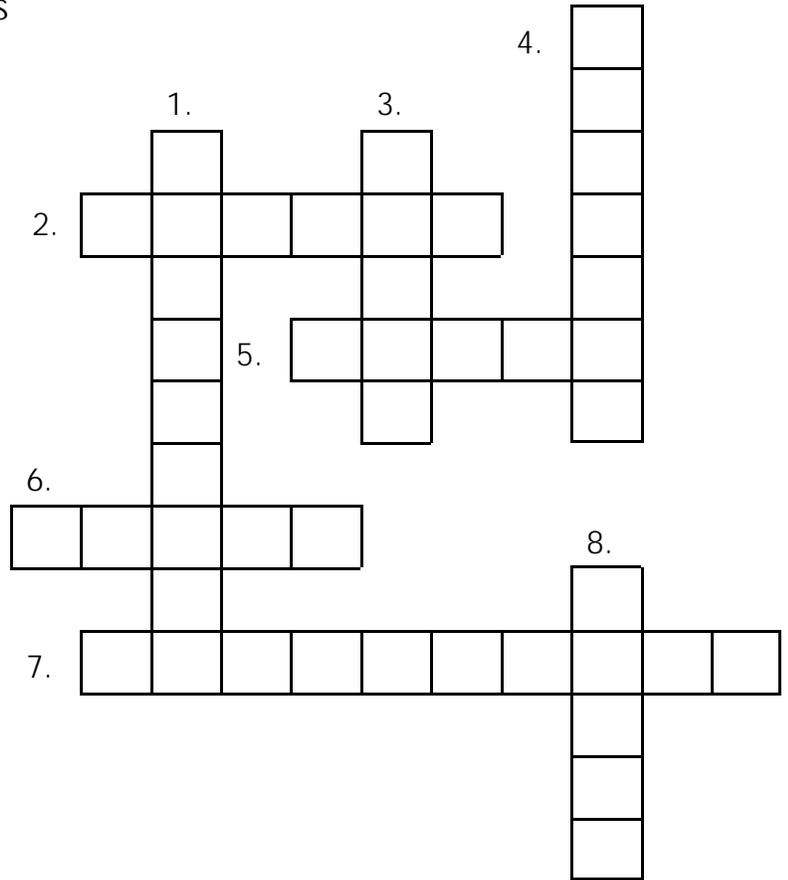
**Puzzle** - Crossword puzzle. Use the words in the box at the bottom for the answers.

**Across:**

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ took Paul and Silas to his home to preach to his family about Jesus.
5. Paul and \_\_\_\_\_ traveled to Philippi.
6. They sang \_\_\_\_\_ of praise to God while in prison.
7. An \_\_\_\_\_ shook the prison and the locks came open.

**Down:**

1. In Paul's vision, the man said, "Come over to \_\_\_\_\_ and help us."
3. Paul commanded the \_\_\_\_\_ to come out of the girl.
4. The jailer wanted Paul and Silas to give the rite of \_\_\_\_\_ to his whole family.
8. The jailer cried, "What must I do to be \_\_\_\_\_?"



baptism	songs	earthquake	saved
Macedonia	jailer	devil	Silas

## Passages

**Mt. 28:18 - All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

What two commands does God give us in this passage?

**Gal.6:6 - Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.**

How should we treat those who bring us God's Word?

**Mt. 5:11 - Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.**

How should we feel about standing up for God's Word even if bad things happen?

## Hymn - TLH #179

On my heart imprint Thine image, blessed Jesus, King of Grace  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures have no pow'r Thee to efface.  
This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my Life, my hope's Foundation, and my Glory and Salvation. Amen

## Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for blessing us with the wonderful news of our salvation. Please grant us the Holy Spirit to give us the strength and courage to proclaim this good news wherever and whenever You give us the opportunity. Allow the Holy Spirit to carry out that great work through humble individuals like us. In all things let Your will be done. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.