

Acts 16:16-40

How to Live By Faith and Trust in God

Scripture: Acts 16:16-40

Memory Verse: Acts 16:31 *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and all your household.”*

Lesson Focus: We will begin our lesson with a science experiment/trust exercise to demonstrate why we can trust God in all things, capitalizing on this lesson in what trust is throughout our lesson on Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail.

Activities and Crafts: Paul and Silas sing in jail Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Paul and Silas Singing in jail Craft

Starter Activity: Trust in God Exercise: We will have one adult volunteer and maybe one child volunteer, if time permits. Have the volunteer sit in a chair in front of you. Prepare a large Ziploc bag full of water and 3-4 very sharp wooden pencils. All supplies available in the resource room. Ask your volunteer if they trust you to poke a hole into the plastic bag with the pencil if you promise they won't get wet. Use the adult volunteer first, as he/she should have the wisdom to trust you when you say you can do this.

Hold the bag over the volunteer's head, and poke the sharp wooden pencil into the bag and back out the other side. Repeat with 2-3 more pencils, asking each time whether they still trust you. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmXpgqxr4VM>)

Q: Why did you trust me to not let you get wet even in this impossible situation?

A: Various answers. (prep adult volunteer not to explain the science if they are already familiar with this experiment. If you have time, consider repeating the experiment with a child volunteer before explaining. Be sure to use a new bag and pencils.)

The reason you should choose to trust me is because I know the science. See, this bag is made up of polymers, or really large molecule chains, that simply rearrange around the pencil to plug the gaps. That's why it works. I understood the science, and that made me trustworthy.

Q: What about God? Can we trust Him? Why?

A: Because God understands everything that is happening to us, we can trust Him even when it seems impossible! He is a trustworthy God!

Paul and Silas are going to get to live this out in an amazing way in the scriptures today. Just wait and see if you would be able to trust God in the same way they did.

Bible Study:

Acts 16:16a: We ended last week with the newly established church in Lydia's house. Here we see Paul and Silas were enjoying the company of these new believers and praying with them.

Acts 16:16b-17: In the time of the Romans there were several cities that had these young women who were possessed by demons who would tell the future. The most famous one is probably the Oracle of Delphi. The Romans really and truly believed that these young women could tell them the future. Isn't it interesting that what the young woman was saying about Paul and Silas was actually true? Q: What does the Bible have to say about demons in this context? **Read James 2:19.** A: See, that's how the young women knew the truth up here in her head, but she didn't believe it in her heart.

Acts 16:18: So, Paul was patient with this young woman for several days, maybe hoping that she would come to understand the truth. Finally, though, he'd had enough and cast the demon out of the young woman. In this Paul was acting like Jesus, since Jesus didn't let demons proclaim who he was either. **Read Luke 4:41**

Acts 16:19-24: The masters of the slave girl were really angry about the demon being cast out of the young woman. After all, they were making a lot of money off of her fortune telling ability. They must have been powerful guys, because the Romans in charge listened to them, beat up Paul and Silas, and threw them into the prison. Q: Does this seem fair to you? A: NO!

Acts 16:25: Wait, what just happened? Q: Paul and Silas were beaten until they had wounds all over their backs, were thrown into prison without a fair trial, and what were they doing? A: They were singing and praising God! Do you think you would have behaved like Paul and Silas? I might have been tempted to feel sorry for myself. But, Paul and Silas trusted completely in the Lord and knew that He was worthy of their trust.

Acts 16:26: And God heard them and sent an earthquake that broke open all the doors of the prisons and caused the chains on their hands and feet to fall off! That must have been a really weird earthquake to break chains off of people's hands and feet. But, God can do whatever He wants, right?

Acts 16:27-28: In the times of the Romans, if you were set to guard someone and you failed, you were sentenced to death yourself. It probably made the guards really careful to never loose anyone they were guarding! So, that's why the jailer was going to kill himself and why Paul had to quickly stop him from doing himself harm. Q: Why didn't Paul and Silas run away and get out of the jail as soon as the doors were broken open? A: Paul and Silas had faith in the Lord. They were steadfast in their trust in the Lord to care for them. So, that's why they didn't run away when the prison doors opened.

Acts 16:29-30: The faith of Paul and Silas convinced the jailer that he wanted to become a follower of Jesus, too. See, Paul and Silas were a witness to Christ just by the way that

they lived and behaved. Q: How can you be like Paul and Silas and live your life with faith and trust in the Lord? A: Various Answers.

Acts 16:31: Paul and Silas share the beautiful simplicity of the gospel in these words. Maybe last week when we learned about Lydia opening her heart to Jesus, you realized that you wanted to open your heart as well. This here is the way. Q: Would you like to open your heart to Jesus and be saved? A: Then believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, in all the things that the Bible says about Him and what He has done to save us from our sins, and you will be saved, too. The truth is the same from way back in the time of Paul and Silas until today.

Acts 16:32-34: Paul and Silas took care of the jailer's soul, and the souls of his family, too. And, the jailer took care of their bodies, dressing their wounds and giving them food. These verses show us how to love one another, taking care of one another's spiritual and physical needs.

Acts 16:35-36: After the crazy earthquake in the night, it seems like the Roman magistrate just wants to get rid of Paul and Silas.

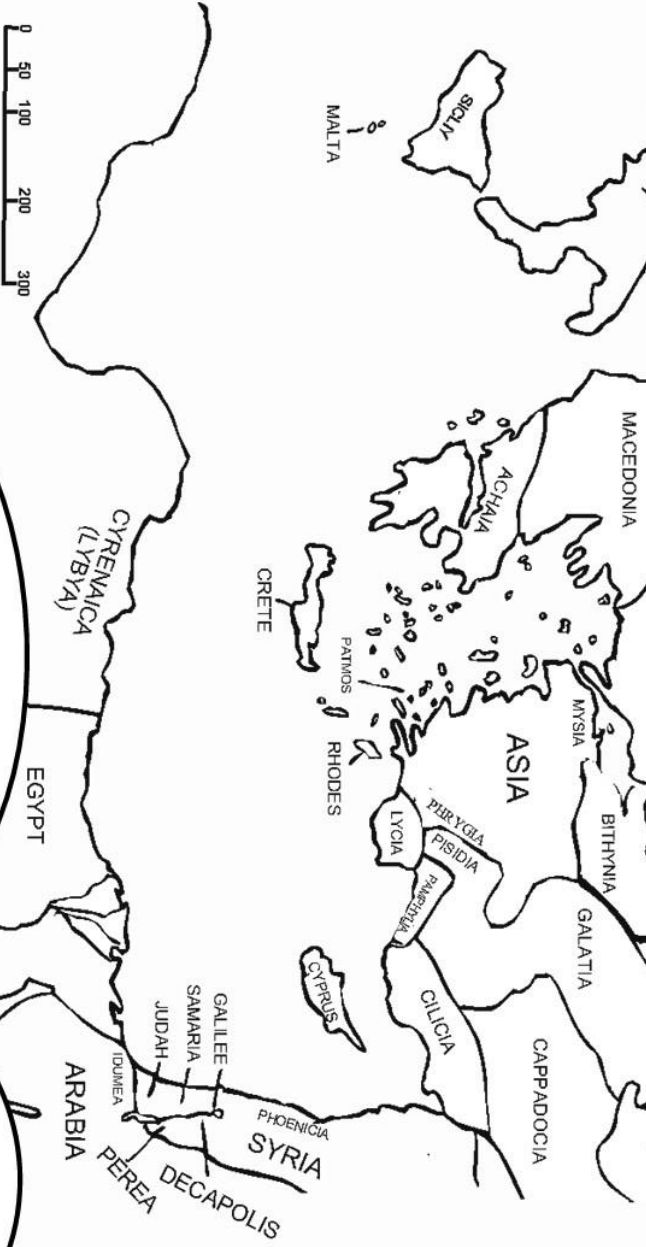
Acts 16:37-39: Once again, Paul and Silas don't want to do things in secret. They probably know that the brand-new church in Lydia's house still needs them to be present and that it wasn't time yet for them to leave the new believers without a shepherd. If they took the deal to escape Philippi secretly, they might not be able to come back to see the new Christians in that city again.

Acts 16:40: This way, Paul and Silas were able to end their time in Philippi well, encouraging the new believers and strengthening the church there.

Key Point: Paul and Silas truly lived by faith in Philippi. Their trust in the Lord was so strong that they were even able to trust Him and sing His praises while they were imprisoned! Their lives of faith were a testimony of the trustworthiness of Jesus to all those around them and even drew some people, like Lydia and the jailer, to faith in Jesus themselves.

Boys and Girls: As believers in Jesus we are witnessing all the time. Your behavior, your care for others, and your faith and trust in Jesus all work together to show others what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Did you know that? Did you know that the Lord is using you to show Himself to the world every day? Let's choose to live like Paul and Silas. Let's choose to trust in Jesus even when things look hard and dark around us. Let's remember that He understands exactly what is happening to us and therefore we can trust Him in all things. Let's choose to sing to Him even when we're in big trouble. Let's live lives of faith in our trustworthy Lord, Jesus the Christ.

FIND THE TREASURE



Mediterranean World
Countries or Areas and Islands

Read Acts 16:27-28
Why didn't Paul and Silas run away when the prison doors were opened?

PARENT CHALLENGE
If you were stuck in prison what worship songs would you remember to sing?

Read Acts 16:31
What do you have to do to be saved?

