

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

43

SILAS TRAVELS WITH PAUL

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



43

SILAS TRAVELS WITH PAUL

Memory Verse:

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13 NKJV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Silas was

#2 - Discover what obedience led Silas to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Acts 15:22-16:40

1 Peter 5:12



43

SILAS TRAVELS WITH PAUL

Acts 15:22-16:40

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Silas

His Heroic Feat: Strengthens Believers

Strengthening believers may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

We have been talking lately about Paul and Barnabas. We talked about the journey they took and the churches they started. Well, after that first journey, they returned to Antioch. The church in Jerusalem sent two men to Paul and Barnabas, and the church at Antioch, with a message. The men were prophets (messengers) and they had given their lives to serve the Lord. They were Judas Barsabbas and Silas. When they arrived they "said many things to encourage the believers and make them stronger." (Acts 15:32 NCV) After some time the men were sent back to Jerusalem by the believers in Antioch. Judas returned to Jerusalem, but Silas decided to stay.

After some time, Paul and Barnabas decided to go back to the places they had visited on their first journey, but they disagreed about who to take and decided to separate and make two different journeys. Barnabas went to Cyprus with his cousin, John Mark. Paul took Silas. At times Dr. Luke traveled with them, too. Paul and Silas "went through Syria and Cilicia, giving strength to the churches." (Acts 15:40 NCV)

Paul, Silas, and their companions traveled from town to town. One of the places they visited was "Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city in that part of Macedonia." (Acts 16:12 NCV) They stayed there for several days. On the Sabbath day, when they were looking near the river for a quiet place to pray, they found a successful business woman named Lydia. She worshipped God, but as Paul and Silas shared the Good News with her, she believed and she and her family were baptized.

On another occasion when Paul and Silas were going to a place for prayer, a servant girl met them. She told fortunes and her owners made a lot of money from her. Paul, by the power of Jesus, freed the servant girl from the spirit that was in her and made her owners very angry. They stirred up the crowd who attacked Paul and Silas. The Roman officers had Paul and Silas beaten and then threw them into jail. The jailer was ordered to guard them very carefully, so "he put them far inside the jail and pinned their feet down between large blocks of wood." (Acts 16:24 NCV)

At midnight in the jail, you might expect to hear cries for help or moaning and cursing, but something amazing was happening in this Philippian jail - "Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God as the other prisoners listened." (Acts 16:25 NCV) And then there was an earthquake that shook the jail. All of the doors were opened and the prisoners' chains were even loosened and fell off!

The poor jailer woke up and saw the doors opened and thought that surely the prisoners must have escaped. The Romans would want his life for allowing so many prisoners to get away, so the jailer drew "his sword and was about to kill himself" instead. (Acts 16:27 NCV) Paul, who heard the sword as it was drawn, shouted to the jailer and said, "Don't hurt yourself! We are all here." (Acts 16:28 NCV) The jailer grabbed a light, ran in, and fell down on his face in front of Paul and Silas. Then he asked them, "What do I have to do to be saved?" Paul and Silas answered him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved—you and all the people in your house." (Acts 16:31 NCV) The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house. They shared the message of the Lord there. They all believed! The jailer cleaned Paul and Silas' wounds and then they baptized the jailer and his family immediately!

Paul and Silas strengthened the churches. They also brought people to the Lord, like this jailer, and they strengthened individual believers, too. How can you be strengthened as you walk with the Lord? Our memory verse says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13 NKJV) If you have chosen to follow the Lord, you have in you someone who strengthens you every moment of every day. In turn, who can you strengthen and encourage to walk with God?

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Silas strengthened believers. Silas also shared the Good News of God's love with those who didn't know it yet. Do you know that God loves you? Do you know that He loves you so much that He sent His one and only Son to take the punishment you deserve?

Maybe you are wondering like the jailer did, "What must I do to be saved?" How did Paul and Silas respond? "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved . . ." Have you done that? What's stopping you?



NEXT WEEK
Aquila and Priscilla

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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After Paul and Barnabas made their first journey to visit believers and start churches, Paul took another trip to revisit many of those places. Paul took a man named Silas with him. They traveled from town to town. They even visited the city of Philippi and stayed there for several days.

While they were there, Paul and Silas helped a servant girl. They helped her, but this made other people very mad. They stirred up the crowd and the crowd attacked Paul and Silas. Roman officers had Paul and Silas beaten and then threw them into jail. The jailer was ordered to guard them very carefully, so "he put them far inside the jail and pinned their feet down between large blocks of wood." (Acts 16:24 NCV)

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ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Write each word of the memory verse on separate strips of paper. Be sure to include the reference. Scramble the strips of paper and practice ordering the verse. When your students have learned the verse, form a paper chain of the memory verse as a reminder of Silas and the Philippian jailer.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing the "My God is So Big," "Mighty to Save," "Praise Him, Praise Him," "I Love You Lord" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Sing or chant the memory verse (Philippians 4:13).
- Re-enact the lesson. Allow your students to choose which praise songs they want to sing while "in jail."
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Acts 16:25-34. Present the plan of salvation.
- **For more training:** After Philippi, Paul and Silas continued their journey. Read and discuss Acts 17:10-12. Talk about what it means to "be a Berean."
- **For more training:** If time permits, read passages from the book of Philippians. Discuss that this letter was written after Paul and Silas' journey there, so who would have been part of the church? (Lydia, the jailer and his family)

I can do
all things
through Christ who
strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

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HERO IN TRAINING

Silas Travels With Paul

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Scripture:

Acts 15:22-16:40

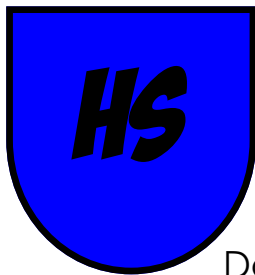
Memory verse:

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
(Philippians 4:13 NKJV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____












What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Review our lesson and the memory verse. What kind of things have you been afraid to do, that you can trust God to do through you? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Finish the memory verse by filling in the first letter of the picture shown.

I c a n d o _____










t h r o u g h _____ w h o







_____ m e .












P h i l i p p i a n s 4 : 1 3

WORD

SEARCH!

S N L D J A T S O M F H B
N E N C O U R A G E O T S
O H E S T G C U T E R E T
L T P T H F O L L Y D H D
D G J R E O L O T M E T E
O N A E R L E G D A V I S
T S I N G A N D P R A Y H
S R L G D O T A H N S L B
T T F T E P H E I I E N S
E S A H E V E I L E B N F
P B I E P L S C I E A D L
H Y E N R U O J P N N E K
P L E H T A H T P D R O W
N H D W S P C S I L A S N
B S W O R S H C R U B C G

- Paul

- Silas

- strengthen

- journey

- Philippi

- jail

- sing and pray

- believe









- be saved

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Finish the memory verse by filling in the first letter of the picture shown.











I c a n d o a l l t h i n a s

t h r o u g h C h r i s t w h o

s t r e n a t h e n s m e .

P h i l i p p i a n s 4 : 1 3

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

S N L D J A T S O M F H B
N E N C O U R A G E O T S
O H E S T G C U T E R E T
L T P T H F O L L Y D H D
D G J R E O L O T M E T E
O N A E R L E G D A V I S
T S I N G A N D P R A Y H
S R L G D O T A H N S L B
T T F T E P H E I I E N S
E S A H E V E I L E B N F
P B I E P L S C I E A D L
H Y E N R U O J P N N E K
P L E H T A H T P D R O W
N H D W S P C S I L A S N
B S W O R S H C R U B C G

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