

# Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex Rainbow Express July / August 2004 Day Two: Paul & Silas in Jail *Praying to Praise God*

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## **Opening Time**

*You will begin each day by knocking on doors and then playing games to help attract children to your Rainbow Express. Have all the children sit down in a large group. It would be helpful to bring a tarp for them to sit on.*

*When the children are together, begin your song time. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs. Doing the puppet show in between songs can help keep the children's attention.*

## **Memory Verse**

*As your song time ends, the memory verse leader will stand and help the children learn this week's memory verse. Use your own words and be energetic while you speak. If the children believe you are excited about the scripture, they will be excited as well. The children will practice the verse again in their small group time.*

*The large group memory verse activity for day two is "Memory Verse Challenge." See the back of the packet for instructions for this activity.*

*Now, divide the children into small groups. Make the groups as small as possible to allow for more one-on-one time.*

## Small Group Time

### TODAY'S STORY: PAUL AND SILAS IN JAIL (ACTS 16:16-38)

*When you tell the story use as many interactive elements as you can. You are going to be outside talking to kids with short attention spans. Keep them involved so they will hear the story! Remember that involving the children will help them pay attention. Use hand motions and sound effects. Have your children repeat things back to you. Ask questions.*

***DO NOT READ TO THE KIDS. TELL THEM THE STORY!***

*Helpers: While the story teller is teaching, sit with the children and be a good example by listening to the story. Watch for children who need special attention.*

Yesterday we talked about Saul, and how Saul learned to talk to Jesus. We learned that Saul started out as a really bad man. He did everything he could to stop people from believing in Jesus. Then one day Jesus appeared to Saul. Saul learned that Jesus was real. Saul prayed. That means he talked to Jesus. Saul asked Jesus to forgive him. Jesus did forgive Saul. Saul changed his name to Paul. He did everything he could to help people believe in Jesus.

Paul traveled to many places to talk about Jesus. During one trip Paul and his friend Silas went to the city of Philippi to tell people there how much Jesus loved them. While they were there, some men became very angry with them. These men hated Jesus, just like Paul used to. Paul and Silas were telling people to love Jesus, and that made these men upset.

They grabbed Paul and Silas and stole all their clothes. Then, in front of the whole city, they beat Paul and Silas. They hit them over and over again. Finally, they threw Paul and Silas into jail.

“Don’t let Paul and Silas escape,” they told the jailer. “If they get away, you will get in big trouble.”

The jailer did not want to get in trouble. He put Paul and Silas in the strongest jail. He put chains all around them and locked the door. “They can’t get out of here,” he thought. Then the jailer went to bed.

In the middle of the night, the other prisoners in the jail couldn’t sleep. There was a strange noise keeping them awake. Can you guess what the strange noise was? What noise would you hear in a jail? The prisoners heard happy singing!

Paul and Silas were chained up in their jail, but they were praying and singing. They sang songs about how much they loved God. They prayed and told God how wonderful they thought He was. Over and over, the two men told God in their prayers how much they loved Him.

The other prisoners could not believe what they heard. Paul and Silas were chained up in a dark, smelly jail, but they were happy. Paul and Silas could not stop praying. They wanted to tell God more and more how much they loved Him.

Soon another noise joined the singing and praying. It was the sound of breaking walls and shaking metal. An earthquake happened in the jail. The chains around Paul and Silas broke and fell off. The locks broke in the prison. All the jail doors came open.

The loud noise woke up the jailer. He ran into the jail. Even in the darkness, he could see that all the chains and doors were broken. The jailer was very afraid. He knew the prisoners must have escaped. He knew he was going to be in very big trouble.

Then the jailer heard Paul's voice. "We're all still here. Don't be afraid," Paul shouted.

The jailer was amazed. Paul and Silas did not run away when they could have. They stayed behind so the jailer would not get in trouble. The jailer ran to Paul and Silas. He fell down on the ground in front of them.

"Sirs," he asked "What can I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas helped the jailer stand up. "Believe in Jesus and you will be saved," they answered.

The jailer took Paul and Silas to his own house. He gave them clean clothes to wear. He cleaned up their hurts from being beat and thrown into the jail. He invited his whole family to come and listen to Paul and Silas. The jailer wanted everybody in his family to hear about Jesus. Paul and Silas spent the night with the jailer, and his whole family believed in Jesus.

Soon, the news about what happened in the jail got to the men who put Paul and Silas in jail. The mean men decided they should let Paul and Silas go. Paul and Silas continued their trip, still telling everybody they could about Jesus.

Paul loved Jesus very much. He was glad Jesus had forgiven him, and given him another chance. Paul would never forget that Jesus loved him. Because of that, Paul loved to talk to Jesus. Paul wanted all people to know they could pray to God too.

Paul and Silas were very brave in Philippi. They wanted very much for all the Philippians to love Jesus like they loved Jesus. They also wanted the Philippians to know how much Jesus already loved them.

Paul worked very hard to help people know that they should pray to God. In fact, the memory verse we are learning this week came from a letter Paul wrote to the people in Philippi, reminding them how important it is to pray.

God wants us to know that too. He loves us more than we can even understand. He wants us to love Him too. God wants us to talk to Him. He wants us to pray and tell Him that we love Him.

The most important thing we can pray is the same thing that Paul prayed: we can ask Jesus to be part of our life. Jesus died on the cross so that He could make a way to get rid of our sins. If we ask Him, Jesus will forgive us. He will be a part of our lives.

If you want to ask Jesus to do that for you, it can happen today. Tell us, and we will help you know how you can let Jesus be in your life.

## **Prayer Time**

*Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Tell God how awesome He is and thank Him for making us. Ask God to help your group to love Him very much. Thank God that He wants to be with us and that He sent Jesus. Tell God thank you that He wants to talk with us.*

## **Craft**

*While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives.*

## **Tambourine**

### Supplies:

One paper plate per child  
One semi-circle with memory verse per child.  
Ten to fifteen dry pinto beans per child  
Scissors  
Crayons  
Glue, tape, or staples

### **Directions:**

1. Give each child a paper plate. Have them decorate the bottom half of the plate with whatever designs or pictures they choose. *(Crayons will be provided by Mission Arlington. If you can bring them, it would also be fun to use glitter, yarn, scraps of cloth, streamers, etc.)*
2. Turn the plate right side up so that the decorated side is down. Put ten to fifteen beans in each student's plate. Fold the plate in half so that it makes a pouch with the beans inside. Use glue, staples, or tape to fasten the plate.
3. Have each child cut out one of the semi-circles with the verse in their own language. Glue the verse to one side of the tambourine.
4. Review the story with your children. Remind them that Paul and Silas knew they could always praise God. Paul liked to pray and sing and tell God that he loved Him.
5. Show the children how to make music with their tambourines. Tell the children that these tambourines are to remind them that they can pray and sing to God, too. Have another song time in your small group. Let the children choose some of their favorite songs from Rainbow Express and play along with the music.

## Memory Verse Activity

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God's word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the back of this packet. Use an idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is

Philippians 4:6—Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.

Filipenses 4:6—No se preocupen por nada. Más bien, oren y pídanle a Dios todo lo que necesiten, y sean agradecidos. **(Spanish)**

## Closing Time

Today, you will play a game using the tambourine crafts to show how God can use us to help share His message. Use the discussion below as a guide to talk with the children.

If you are at a site that has an ongoing Mission Arlington ministry, be sure to invite the children to participate in Bible Study and etc. Remember to keep everyone involved and do not read directly from this page.

**FOR TODAY'S CLOSING TIME, COME BACK TOGETHER AS A LARGE GROUP. SUPPLIES NEEDED : One of the tambourine crafts from today's lesson & a stopwatch or watch with a second hand.**

Today we learned about one adventure Paul had while he told people about Jesus. We know that Paul loved God very much. Paul loved God so much that he always liked to sing, pray, and tell God about it. Paul even sang and prayed while he was locked up in a stinky prison. Paul loved Jesus so much that he wanted everybody know the good news about what Jesus did for them. Paul knew how important it was for everybody to get to hear about Jesus.

Now all of us have heard the good news about Jesus, too. We can be just like Paul. We can sing to God. We can pray and tell Him that we love Him. We can also tell other people about Jesus. We may not travel to a faraway country, but we can tell people right where we live about Jesus.

We're going to play a game about sharing the Good News. We're going to take one

around to everybody at Rainbow Express today. We'll pretend this tambourine is the Good News about Jesus. Let's see how fast we can share it with everybody.

We want to make sure that all everybody here knows the good news, too. There may be some people here that have never asked Jesus to be in their lives. If you want to know how Jesus can be in your life, let us know. We would love to help you.

(Have the entire large group stand in a circle. Pass the tambourine all the way around the circle as fast as possible. Have one person time how long it takes to go around the circle. Do this several times, trying to get faster each time. After a few tries, change up the way you are doing it. Try closing eyes, standing on one leg, passing backward over the head, etc.)

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home.

No se preocupen por nada. Más bien, oren y pídanle a Dios todo lo que necesiten, y sean agradecidos. Filipenses 4:6

Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Philippians 4:6

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