

POINT ➔ **WE PRAISE
GOD FOR HIS POWER.**

Have kids gather in a circle with their arms over each other's shoulders to make a jail. Open the Bible to Acts 16, and show kids the words. **SAY: The Bible is God's special book. It says Paul and Silas were in jail for telling people about Jesus. But all of a sudden there was an earthquake! When I call "earthquake!" stomp your feet and make a rumbling sound. Then let go of your friends and fall down.** Call out "earthquake!" a few times, and let kids have fun falling down each time.

SAY: After the earthquake made the jail doors open, the prisoners stayed in the jail thanking God. Even though their feet were free from the chains, Paul and Silas didn't run away. They stayed inside. Have kids crouch down close to each other on the floor.

SAY: When the jailer found them still there, he was so surprised! Then he asked Paul and Silas how he could be saved. They replied,

"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

The jailer and his whole family were filled with joy because they decided to believe in God. They learned that ➔ **WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.**

Have kids hold hands and hop in a circle to celebrate God's power.

ASK: What do you do when you're in a timeout and your mom or dad says it's over?

What do you think of the fact that Paul and Silas stayed in jail when they could've gotten out?

SAY: Paul and Silas could've broken out of prison. But because they stayed, they were able to tell the jailer about Jesus. He'd seen how they praised God, and he wanted to do the same thing! ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER. TOO.



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Give children each a piece of paper, and show them how to roll it from one corner to the opposite corner to make a megaphone. Use tape to hold the megaphone shape.

Have children gather in a tight circle, facing into the center, bent forward at their waists. Tell children that you're pretending to be gathered together in a small jail cell. Tell children that when you call out, "Tell about God!" they should break free from prison and use their megaphones to tell each other, "Believe in the Lord Jesus!"

Afterward, gather the children near you. SAY: **It's important to believe in Jesus. That means we know Jesus is God's Son who came to earth to show us God's love. And we show we believe when ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.** The jailer and his whole family believed in God because Paul and Silas told them about God.

ASK: **What could you tell others about God?**

Who do you want to talk to about Jesus? Why those people?

Take time to pray with the children about the people they named.

SAY: **We can tell people about Jesus by showing them his power through our actions, like Paul and Silas did when they sang and thanked God. And we can tell people about Jesus by using words, like Paul and Silas did when they told the jailer about Jesus. ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.**

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Play a game that's similar to London Bridge. Direct two of the children to face each other and join hands overhead. Direct the rest of the children to line up, ready to go under the bridge. Lead kids in singing the following words to the tune of "London Bridge." For the tune, play ● "London Bridge" (instrumental) (track 8) on the CD.

SING:

**Paul and Silas told about God,
Told about God, told about God.
Paul and Silas told about God.
And his power.**
(Repeat.)

On the word *power*, have the bridge children bring their arms down, hugging the child caught between them. Lead the child who was caught in saying, ➔ **WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.** Have kids trade places and continue playing until all children have been caught.

ASK: **Tell about a time you saw God's power.**

Paul and Silas were in jail when they told the jailer about God. Most people in jail don't like their jailers! Why can we tell people about God, even if they aren't very nice?

Why can you tell others about God even if you're not in a fun place?

SAY: **When Paul and Silas were trapped in jail, just as you were trapped in the game, they still praised God. Then they got to tell the jailer about God, too! We can tell others about Jesus anytime, and we can tell about how ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.**

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Have children sit in a circle, close to each other. SAY: **We're going to play a game where we practice telling others about God.** Explain to children that you'll whisper something to the first child in the circle. That child will whisper it to the next child, and so on, passing the whispered phrase around the circle.

Whisper "God is powerful" to the first child, and after it's been passed around the circle, have the last child share what he or she heard. Play again by whispering "Praise God" around the circle.

ASK: **What was hard about telling about God this way?**

What's an easier way to tell about Jesus?

SAY: **Whether we whisper or shout it, we can tell others that ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER, just as Paul and Silas told the jailer about God's power to save him and his family.**

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Set out one piece of paper per child. Fold the papers in half while children form pairs. Set out crayons, and encourage children to trace their partners' hands, one on each half of the folded paper.

SAY: We've been learning about the prayer Jesus taught his disciples. Jesus wants all of us to remember to pray. Show children how their hands come together when they fold the paper like a card. Have the children hold their papers while you lead the following discussion and prayer time.

SAY: Let's take some time to pray together now. In the Bible, Paul and Silas talked to the jailer about God. Let's thank God for the people who've told you about God. First, open up your praying hands card, and draw those people on your card on one of the hands you traced.

When kids have finished drawing, encourage them to talk about these special people in their lives. Then have children fold their praying-hands papers and hold them as they thank God for the people who told them about him.

SAY: Now, let's pray for people who you'd like to tell about Jesus. First, draw these people inside the other hand you traced.

Discuss with the children who they could pray for, and then direct children to hold their praying hands papers while you pray with them.

SAY: Take this picture of your praying hands home to remind you to pray for people you can tell that ➤ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.