

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

Open the Bible to Acts 16, and show kids the words. SAY: **The Bible is God's special book. We're going to hear from the Bible today.**

Two men named Paul and Silas were very good friends. Everybody find a partner and join hands to show what good friends you are. Pause. Paul and Silas loved Jesus very much and went all around telling people about him. Partners, walk around the room together and tell whoever you see, "Jesus loves you."

Allow a few minutes for kids to do this. Then have children drop their partners' hands and gather around you. SAY: **One day, in a city called Philippi, a crowd of people got really mad at Paul and Silas. Have kids make mad faces and raise their fists in the air. The people hit Paul and Silas and tore their clothes and then threw Paul and Silas in jail!**

Oh, no! Paul and Silas were in jail! Let's all scrunch together and sit on the floor, as if we're in jail.

How sad to be in jail! This is a small, small room, and it's dark...and damp...and I think it's a little scary, too. Let's get even closer together as we hear about Paul and Silas in jail.

Play 🎧 "Paul and Silas" (track 5) on the CD.

After the audio track ends, give children each a piece of paper and some crayons, and have them draw pictures of different parts of the passage. Then have children explain their pictures to the rest of the group. Line the pictures up in the order of the events in the passage.

ASK: **Tell about a time you had to be somewhere you didn't like. What did you do?**

What makes it easy or hard to praise God when you're in a scary place?

SAY: **Paul and Silas were in a scary, dark place. But they still praised God because they knew he was doing something powerful. Like Paul and Silas, ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.**



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SAY: Let's stand in a circle and hold hands. We're going to pretend we're in jail like Paul and Silas were. We'll sing a song to help us remember that ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.

Select two children to play Paul and Silas. They'll stand in the middle as the rest of the children hold hands in a circle to form the jail. Sing the following song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell," and have the "jail" move around the prisoners. (This song is not on the CD.)

SING:

**Paul and Silas are in jail.
Paul and Silas are in jail.
They know that God is faithful
So they praise him for his power.**

(have Paul and Silas shout, "Praise God!" and punch their fists in the air)

**Paul and Silas sing to God
Paul and Silas sing to God.
They know that God is faithful
So they praise him for his power.**

(have Paul and Silas shout, "Praise God!" and punch their fists in the air)

Have two different children take the place of Paul and Silas in the center of the circle, and sing the song again. Continue until everyone has had a turn to be in the center of the circle.

ASK: Why do people usually get put in jail?

Explain whether it was fair for Paul and Silas to be in jail.

What do you do when something unfair happens to you?

SAY: Paul and Silas didn't do anything wrong, but they got put in jail. Even though that was unfair, they still praised God. When things are unfair, we can have good attitudes like Paul and Silas. And ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.

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SAY: We're learning about a special prayer that Jesus used to teach others how to pray. Jesus wants us to learn to pray, too. Jesus' prayer starts like this: "Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy." Let's praise God by singing that part of Jesus' prayer. I'll sing a phrase, and then you repeat it. **Lift up your hands and wave them around as you sing.** Play ● "Frère Jacques" (instrumental) (track 6) on the *CD*.

SING:

Our Father (*our Father*)

In heaven, (*in heaven*)

May your name be holy. (*may your name be holy*)

Matthew 6:9. (*Matthew 6:9*)

(*Repeat.*)

SAY: To keep God's name holy means to treat it as special.

ASK: How does praising God keep his name holy?

How can you treat God's name as special?

SAY: ➔ **WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.** One of the ways we can thank God for his power is by praising him and keeping his name holy. That's what Paul and Silas did, even when they were in jail!

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Have kids get under a table. If your room doesn't have a table, just have kids crouch down on the floor together. SAY: **Let's pretend we're in jail like Paul and Silas were. We'll hook elbows as if we're chained together.**

ASK: **What do you think it's like to live in a jail?**

What things could you do if you were in jail?

What's something you'd want to have with you if you were in jail?

SAY: **Even though it was hard to be locked in jail and have chains around their legs, Paul and Silas remembered that ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER. Paul and Silas sang to God. Let's sing praises to God from our jail!**

Play ● "The Power!" (track 7) on the CD.

SING:

Everybody come with me; (*beckon with hand*)

It's time to sing (*point to wrist*)

About Jesus' power all around me. (*spin in a circle*)

We gotta let the whole world know (*point to others*)

That Jesus Christ is on the throne! (*cross arms*)

(Chorus)

He's got the POWER! (*make muscles*)

Everybody's talkin' 'bout his POWER! (*make muscles*)

Look up, look down, look all around (*look around*)

And you will see his POWER! (*make muscles*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

(Repeat chorus.)

The power to be thankful! (*echo*)

The power to be brave! (*echo*)

The power to lend a helping hand! (*echo*)

To live forever, you know we can! (*echo*)

(Repeat chorus 2x.)

Look up, look down, look all around (*look around*)

And you will see his POWER! (*make muscles*)

(Repeat.)

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POINT ➔ **WE PRAISE
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SAY: ➔ **WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER.** Think of something that's really powerful. I'm going to pass around *Squiggles* the worm. When you get *Squiggles*, put him on your arm and tell the group something that's powerful. (If kids get stuck, offer suggestions such as thunderstorms, policemen, daddies, muscles, or elephants.)

After each child shares, lead the kids in shouting, "God is even more powerful!" Have the child with *Squiggles* on his or her arm make a muscle to show how God's power is bigger than what the child named. Watch as *Squiggles* moves on the muscle. (Make the "muscle" more pronounced by having kids use their opposite hand to bulge their biceps.)

Continue playing until kids seem to be running out of ideas of things that are powerful.

SAY: **God is more powerful than anything you will ever see. Let's praise God for his power by shouting, "You're powerful, God!"** Lead kids in shouting.

ASK: **How do you know God is more powerful than the things we thought of?**

What are some ways we can see God's power?

What are some ways we can praise God for being so powerful?

SAY: **This week, let's all remember that ➔ WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS POWER. We can praise him because we know he's powerful, even when things are bad like they were for Paul and Silas.**