



LESSON 49

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER

ACTS 16:16-40

THE STORY HOME

Today, we learned about the Epic story of a jailer from Philippi who became a believer while Paul and Silas were in prison. Paul and Silas had been thrown into prison for casting a demon out of a girl because her owners would no longer be able to make money off of her fortune telling skills. Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God while in prison. Then, a giant earthquake came and the jail cell doors flew open. The jailer was certain they had escaped, but when he found that Paul and Silas were still there, he fell on his knees and asked to be saved. The jailer's entire family was saved that night.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Is there anything that seems unusual to you about this story? What stands out to you?
- How did God use Paul and Silas even though they were in prison?
- Think about today's Epic story, as well as the story of Jesus and other stories you know. Is life always easy for people who believe in God? Why or why not?
- How can God use us in tough situations?

TOGETHER HOME

Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God while they were in prison. Crank up worship music on your iPod or favorite Christian radio station while you're in the car or spending time together as a family. Sing praises to God together. Talk about what the words of the songs you like are saying. Then, take some time to pray as a family, thanking God for who He is and all He does for His people.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

The final verse to learn for this year is Philippians 4:6-7. Have younger family members learn the underlined portion of the passage. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Read the verses together several times. Write them on a bookmark for each person to use this week.

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LESSON 50

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: PAUL'S SHIPWRECK/ ARRIVAL IN ROME

ACTS 27 AND 28

THE STORY HOME

In today's Epic story, the missionary Paul was once again imprisoned. This time he was being sent by boat to Rome to stand trial before Caesar. However, continuous bad weather caused major detours and delays. At one point the storms were so bad the crew passed ropes under the ship just to hold it together. An angel appeared to Paul and told him that neither he nor the crew would die. And, while they were shipwrecked, everyone did make it to land safely. After staying on the island for three months, they again sailed for Rome where Paul, still a prisoner, stayed for two years and taught about Jesus.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever seen storms in real life or on TV like the ones Paul and the sailors experienced when they were trying to sail to Rome?
- How does our Bible verse relate to this story? How does it relate to you?
- Are there people who face dangers while telling others about Jesus today? What dangers might they face?
- What is more important: to be safe or to be obedient to God? Why?

TOGETHER HOME

Imagine together that God has called your family to be missionaries in another country. Choose a country. Learn about the foods you'd be eating, what the weather would be like, the type of house you might stay in, and dangers that you might face. What would you have to give up if God called you to be missionaries? What would you gain? In the country you chose, are Christians welcome, or are they persecuted?

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

Have younger family members learn the underlined portion of the passage. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). Create a prayer poster. Let all family members write prayer requests on the poster. Spend time praying for the requests and learning the verses.

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LESSON 51

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: APOSTLE OF LOVE

1 JOHN 4:7-21

THE STORY HOME

Today's Epic Scripture is all about love. We learned that God is love and that He loved us enough to send Jesus to die for our sins. We also learned that God's Word teaches us to love one another just like God loves us. Our love is shown in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- How does God feel about all people?
- How do we know that God loves us?
- If we love God, how should we live?
- What does love look like when it is lived out?

TOGETHER HOME

Write a love note... or rather a note of friendship, to a friend. You may choose to write to someone who seems lonely, grumpy, or in need of encouragement. Tell that person how much you care about him or her and how much God loves him or her. Draw a picture to include if you'd like. Stick your note in the mail, or better yet, deliver it in person. Find some other ways to show your love for others, perhaps through working hard to use kind words or caring for someone who is hard to care for.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

Have younger family members learn the underlined portion of the passage. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). Practice this verse together whenever possible, in the car, at the dinner table, during devotions, and so on.

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Lesson 51, Take-home



LESSON 52

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: REVELATION

REVELATION 21:1-8

THE STORY HOME

Today's Epic story is a vision found in the book of Revelation where John the Revelator catches a glimpse of what's to come in the future. We learned that Jesus going to heaven and missionaries and other Christians telling people about Jesus isn't the end of the story. Jesus is going to return one day. Everything is going to be made right again... the way God intended for it to be in the first place. God is going to dwell among His people and there won't be any more sadness, tears, or pain.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What do you think it will be like when Jesus returns?
- What are you looking forward to about Jesus' return?
- If we accept Jesus into our hearts and obey Him with our lives, what can we be confident of?
- What are you wondering about heaven and about Jesus' return to earth?

TOGETHER HOME

No one really knows or can imagine exactly what heaven is like or what it will be like when Jesus returns. Our best bet is to trust that it will be better than anything we could imagine. Take turns imagining what it will be like to have no more darkness, sadness, or sickness. What will you see? Who will you be with? Are there other Christians you know who have already died that you're going to get to see again? Draw pictures of the images that come to mind based on today's scripture passages from Revelation.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). Has every family member learned this verse? Review other verses your family has learned throughout this year. How can these verses help you as you live for Jesus?

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