

## 12. Singing for God (Acts 16:16-40)

Shout triumphantly to the LORD all the earth! (Psalm 100:1)



# PLAN

### Session Outline

#### 1. Gather

Greeting  
Jesus Loves Me  
What Is an Earthquake?  
Transition to Explore

#### 2. Explore

Sacred Conversations  
Hear and See the Bible Story  
Interact with the Bible Story  
Say the Bible Verse  
Transition to Respond

#### 3. Respond

Loving God,  
Loving Neighbor  
Musical Praise  
Music in the Air  
Transition to Bless

#### 4. Bless

Inviting  
Praising  
Blessing  
At Home with God

### Supplies

**Basic Supplies:** Tape | Stickers | Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue | Paper | Scissors

**Gather:** Bell to ring | Small plates | Napkins | Plastic knives | Graham crackers | Jelly | Tablespoon | Wipes (for sticky hands)

**Explore:** Bell

**Respond:** Bell | Child-safe musical instruments | Paper punch (several) | Yarn

**Bless:** No additional supplies needed

### Before You Teach

Today's Bible story is about the apostle Paul. Everywhere Paul went, he searched for opportunities to preach and share the good news. Paul's news was not always welcome, however. During Paul's conversion experience, God told Ananias that Paul would have to suffer. And sometimes Paul did. In this week's Bible story, we read about one of the multiple times Paul was put in prison.

Paul was thrown into prison for healing a woman who was a slave. While healing a woman sounds like a good thing to do, the woman's owners were not pleased. Once the slave woman was healed, they were no longer able to use the woman as a fortune-teller to make money for them.

The experience of Paul and Silas in prison illustrates Paul's zealotness in spreading the good news. While Paul and Silas were in prison, they passed their time by singing songs and praising God. There was an earthquake which opened the prison doors and broke their chains. Presented with an opportunity to escape, Paul and Silas stayed instead and told the jailer about Jesus.

It might be tempting to applaud Paul's efforts and then sit back and assume that the work of spreading the good news is done. However, there are still people today who need to hear this good news—the news that Jesus is alive and that God loves them.

Fellowship with others and education were central to Paul's ministry of encouragement and spreading the good news. When we gather together as a community of faith for worship and Sunday school, we are recognizing what Paul knew—that for the church to grow and thrive, people need to meet together and learn about God. When we invite others to join us at church, we are helping spread the good news of Jesus.

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# GATHER

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## Greeting

*Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15–18) at eye level. Put together the model of the library and the figures of Mayor Taylor, Coach Jesse, and Mr. Jones (Class Kit—p. 9).*

- Play, “Joyful, Joyful” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD) as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
- Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and library, Mayor Taylor, Coach Jess, and Mr. Jones figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.

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## A—Jesus Loves Me (Art)

*Before class: Make a copy of “Jesus Loves Me” (p. 78) for each child.*

- Give each child a copy of “Jesus Loves Me” (p. 78) and invite him or her to color the picture. Encourage the child to add colorful patterns.

OR

## B—What Is an Earthquake? (Snack)

*Before class: Always check for allergies and have the children wash their hands before activities involving food.*

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, we will hear about an earthquake. Do you know what an earthquake is? Have you ever experienced one? What was it like?

**SAY:** Our earth is made of layers. The top layer that we stand on is called the *crust*. The Earth’s crust isn’t one big piece. It is made up of many pieces called *plates*. The plates are always slowly moving around, on top of what is called the *mantle layer*, and bumping into one another. One cause of earthquakes is when the plates bump together with great force. Let’s experiment a bit using a yummy snack.

- Have a child help you pass out a plate, napkin, and plastic knife to each child.
- Put about a tablespoon of jelly on each child’s plate, and invite the child to spread the jelly over the surface of his or her plate. Then give each child one full graham cracker to break in half.
- Encourage the children to use their hands to experiment with bumping their graham crackers into each other like the *plates* that make up the top layer of the earth. Encourage them to do it with more or less force and speed.
- Invite the children to enjoy their graham crackers and jelly as a snack.

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## Transition to Explore

- Have the children help clean up; ring a bell to indicate it is time to move to the Bible story circle.

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# EXPLORE

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### Sacred Conversations

**SAY:** This month we are hearing stories from the Bible about worship. When we worship, we are sharing with God and with one another that we love God and that God is important to us. Through our worship we honor and thank God.

**ASK:** I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
  - How do you feel today?
  - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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### Hear and See the Bible Story

**SAY:** Today our Bible story is about Paul and Silas when they were in prison.

- Tell the children the story, "Paul and Silas" (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 492).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 12 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

**ASK:** What songs do you like to sing?

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### Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of "Singing for God" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 12).
- Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.

**TIP:** Printable "Word Cards" for the words in blue are available each quarter to download and print at [www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday](http://www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).

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### Say the Bible Verse

*Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 3 (Class Kit—p. 7) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
  - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 94 and [www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday](http://www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday)).
  - Watch the Unit 3 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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### Transition to Respond

- Ring a bell to indicate it is time to move to the next activity.

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# RESPOND

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## Loving God, Loving Neighbor

*Before class: Post "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 27) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

**SAY:** In the Adventure Video today, Kat and her family were sitting together when suddenly the lights went out because of a storm. Kat was afraid. Grammy told them the story of Paul and Silas, and they all sang "Jesus Loves Me" together until the lights came back on. Let's sing "Jesus Loves Me" together.

- Sing the song, "Jesus Loves Me."

**OPTION:** *Invite the children to share songs they like to sing when they are afraid or anxious. If these are well-known songs, sing them together as a group.*

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## A—Musical Praise (Music)

*Before class: Locate a variety of child-safe musical instruments.*

**SAY:** Paul and Silas sang songs of praise when they were afraid. How does singing and making music make you feel?

- Place a variety of child-safe musical instruments on the floor or a table.
- Invite the children to explore with and play the instruments

**TIP:** *Try to be conscientious of others in your church building, while also trying to allow the children to explore and play freely. This may mean choosing quieter instruments.*

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OR

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## B—Music in the Air (Activity Sheets)

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 12.
  - Encourage the children to create musical decorations according to the instructions.
  - Hang the decorations in the classroom.
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## Transition to Bless

- Have the children help clean up; then ring a bell to indicate it is time to move to the Bible story circle.

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# BLESS

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### Inviting

*Before class: Cut out the pieces from the bottom of Unit 3 Bible Story Mural (Class Kit—p. 21) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag, then hang the top part of the poster on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of Paul and Silas with the Roman jailer onto the mural.

**ASK:** What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

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### Praising

*Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Sing together, “Shout Triumphantly” (Class Kit—p. 25).
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### Blessing

- Invite the children to stand with you in a circle.
  - Turn to the child next to you and say, “God be with you.” Have the child respond by saying, “And also with you,” then have him or her turn to the next child and say, “God be with you.” Continue around the circle giving each child a chance to say both lines. Then conclude by saying, “Amen.”
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### At Home with God

**ASK:** What’s one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 12. Look at “Family Faith Activities” together.

**ASK:** Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 12 with each child.

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Jesus Loves Me

