



Date: _____
Series: Mission Adventures
Spring Year 3, Lesson 55

Paul and Silas Set Free

Take Home Point: *God wants to set you free.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 16:16-34

Key Verse: John 8:36, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free."

Galatians 5:1, "Christ has freed us so that we may enjoy the benefits of freedom. Therefore, be firm in this freedom, and don't become slaves again."

We will help kids know:

- Sometimes we become slaves to our own selfishness.
- Jesus' forgiveness and presence in our lives gives us power over selfishness.
- God works good in bad situations for those who love him.




We will help kids feel:

- Caution because sin can be a trap.
- Happy because God gives power over selfishness.

We will help kids do:

- Make paper chains that help identify areas of selfishness.
- Talk about how the chains of sin can be broken with Jesus in their life.
- Pray and ask Jesus for help to break the chains that keep them from freedom.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Children play with a finger trap to demonstrate how one can be trapped by selfishness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Chinese finger trap for each group
Large Group 	3 6 9 9 10	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Goes Free”—Gordy is afraid of getting in trouble for something he did.</p> <p>Video: <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i>. Show Chapter 16:16-40.</p> <p>Teaching Point—using object lessons. The presenter uses objects to review and summarize the Bible event.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Goes Free”—Gordy understands Jesus is the one who can set him free.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> video, <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i>, cued to Chapter 16:16-34. Published by Visual Bible International 1997—order from http://christiancinema.com Gordy small backpack with finger trap inside suitcase bag of money or coins songbook toy knife or sword
Small Group Application 	4	Children make paper chains and break them to show Jesus' power to set us free from sin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> scissors strips of construction paper (1" x 11") for each child and shepherd roll tape gluesticks

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Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: a Chinese finger trap

Have kids take turns with the finger trap.

See if you can get out of the finger trap without pulling your fingers out of their sockets (teasingly) or tearing the trap.



Once children have taken a turn, ask them:

How did you feel when you were stuck in the finger trap? (*Frustrated, scared, sad.*)

Can you think of a time when you did something bad and you had to keep it a secret so you wouldn't get caught? I remember a time when...

Give a personal example of a time you had been caught in a sin.

Sometimes we might get trapped in our own selfishness or sin. When we do, however, God can free us. Today we will learn that **God wants to set you free.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Goes Free”—Gordy is afraid of getting in trouble for something he did.

Video: *Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by Visual Bible International. Show Acts 16:16-40.

Teaching Point—using object lessons. The presenter uses objects to review the video and summarize the Bible event.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Goes Free”—Gordy understands Jesus is the one who can set him free.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened? & Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Read Acts 16:25-33.

What were Paul and Silas doing when the doors opened and the chains fell off? (*Singing and praying.*) Why do you think they were singing if they were thrown in jail? (*Accept any answer.*)

What did the jailer plan to do when the prisoners escaped? (*Kill himself.*) Why? (*Background info: As a Roman soldier, he and his whole family would be killed because of his failure.*)

Why do you think Paul and Silas did not run away even though they were free? (*Accept any answer.*)

What did the jailer do as a result of Paul and Silas helping him? (*He believed in Jesus and he and his family were baptized.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: 1x 11 inch construction paper strips and scissors, tape, gluesticks

Think about some things you did wrong that caused you to feel trapped in your selfishness or sin. When we keep doing the same bad or selfish things over and over, we become trapped in our own sin. It is like a prison of selfishness.

We are going to make some paper chains to remind us of the sins that keep us imprisoned. As we do, let's talk about some of the things that keep us in our own selfish prison.

Give each child several strips of colored construction paper. Using gluesticks, have each one make a paper chain with the strips while they talk about certain sins that trap them.

While kids are making chains, make a “cross scissors.” To do this, tape two strips of construction paper into the shape of a cross and then tape it onto the side of a pair of scissors so that the scissors still function and can cut.

Once the kids have had a chance to make the chains, ask:

How do we break these chains?

Have kids refer to John 8:36 in their Bibles and have someone read it aloud. Then say:

****God wants to set you free. He has given you Jesus. All we need to do is say, “Jesus, break this chain of sin. I trust you as my Savior.” Let’s say it together, “Jesus, break this chain of sin. I trust you as my Savior.”***

Have two kids hold each end of another child’s chain while the child proceeds to cut his own paper chain with the “cross” scissors.

As the child cuts his chain, have him repeat the phrase:

“Jesus, break this chain of sin. I trust you as my Savior.”

**After Jesus helps us break our chains, he wants us to stay that way.
John 8:36, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free.”**

Closing Prayer:

Let’s pray and ask God to help us stay free from selfishness and sins.

Give each child a chance to pray, then close with the following:

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to die for our sins and for giving us the power to be free. We are sorry for the times we choose to do wrong. We love you and trust you to help us in the times we want to be selfish. Please forgive us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Large Group Presentation:

20-30 minutes

Gordy Goes Free

Puppet Presentation

We will investigate Paul's first and second missionary journeys. Week to week children will be reminded that though Paul and others were set apart to be missionaries by vocation, God has not called all of us to be missionaries. He has, however, called us to have a mission. That mission is to serve him.

A suitcase and a backpack are used to illustrate the main point in the large group presentation. The presenter uses the suitcase to talk about Paul and one of his adventures---specifically, a mission adventure. The small backpack or knapsack is attached to Gordy, the puppet. Some weeks Gordy will have an object in his pack that will help explain his perception of having a mission. Most weeks, however, an object from the traveling suitcase will be given to Gordy to be put in his pack. Week to week Gordy will discover more about how God has called him to serve.

This script calls for Gordy to refer to Pastor. Let him put in the name of the Senior Pastor or Children's Pastor in the script.

(Gordy comes onstage with a backpack. Inside is one of the finger traps from Small Group Warm-Up.)

Presenter: Kids, shall we welcome Gordy ?

Kids call for Gordy. **Gordy...Gordy...Gordy...** Gordy sneaks a peak, ducks under, sneaks a peak again and cautiously enters.

Presenter: Gordy, what's up?

Gordy: Well, I was just checking to see if Pastor _____ (*fill in your pastor's name*) was here.

Presenter: He's not here now. But I would be happy to help you find him right after this.

Gordy: Oh-h-h, (presenters name), that's okay. Actually, I'm trying to make sure he doesn't find me.

Presenter: Wha-a-t?

Gordy: I'm supposed to see him after Kingdom Quest, but I don't really want to.

Presenter: **What do you mean, Gordy? Why wouldn't you want to see Pastor?**

Gordy: Well, my shepherd said that after what I did, I have to talk to the Pastor after Kingdom Quest.

Presenter: **Gordy, what did you do?**

Gordy: Ah-h-h, nothin'.

Presenter: **What do you mean—"nothin'?"**

Gordy: Well, it's just that after we did our Warm-Up trick with the little finger trap...the finger trap for our group came up missing.

Presenter: **So, did you find it?**

Gordy: Yeah, we found it.

Presenter: **Where was it?**

Gordy: In my backpack.

The presenter reaches in Gordy's backpack to get the finger trap.

Presenter: **How did it get there?**

Gordy: I don't know.

Presenter: **Are you sure, Gordy?**

Gordy: We-I-I...

Presenter: **Gordy, did you take it?**

Gordy: Well, I just wanted to take it home to show my friends. Now my shepherd says that I've got to show the pastor. Boy, am I in trouble.

Presenter: **So, you stole it?**

Gordy: I borrowed it.

Presenter: **Gordy.**

Gordy: Well, I meant to only borrow it.

Presenter: **Gordy, sounds to me like *you* got trapped.**

Gordy: Not if the pastor can't find me.

Presenter: No, you got trapped in something far worse than getting in trouble.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Presenter: Well, sin trapped you. Your own selfishness trapped you.

Gordy: Huh??

Presenter: Gordy, when you do something wrong, don't you feel bad inside?

Gordy: Yeah.

Presenter: When you don't admit sin, it's like trying to cover it up. Then you feel worse.

Gordy: Yeah.

Presenter: Gordy, that is worse than being caught in a finger trap. Sin and selfishness is like a jail that can hold you inside.

Gordy: Especially if you are hiding from the Pastor.

Presenter: What you need is to get free.

Gordy: You can say that again. Maybe I'll just make a break for my car now. Check and see if the pastor is around the corner.

Presenter: Gordy, trying to hide isn't the answer. You need to discover what we are learning today: **God wants to set you free.* We are going to show a video clip of what happened when Paul and Silas were traveling through the town of Philippi. There they got thrown in jail.

Gordy: Uh-oh. What did they steal?

Presenter: They didn't steal anything. They were thrown in jail for preaching the gospel. After God freed them, they met someone else who was "locked up" or "jailed" on the inside.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Presenter: Watch this Bible event and look for the jailer. When he thought he had goofed up and thought the prisoners had escaped, he felt so bad he was ready to do something terrible. But he, too, found out that God wanted to set him free. Why don't you watch.

Video

Show the video, *Visual Bible: Acts*. Show Chapter 16:16-40. Then, go to the Interactive Bible Event and close with the Puppet Conclusion. The total length of the clip is six minutes, 25 seconds.

Teaching Point:

Review using object lesson

Supplies: suitcase with bag of money or coins, songbook, and toy knife or sword inside the suitcase

The slave girl and the stack of money

As the video began today, we saw Paul and Silas meet a slave girl who had an evil spirit that aided her in predicting the future. Paul said to the evil spirit in the girl, "In the name of Jesus Christ, come out." After that, the spirit left the slave girl.

Who can tell me if the slave girl's owners were mad about this or happy about this. Why? Pull the bag of money out of the suitcase. **What does this sack of money have to do with it?** *(The owners were upset because she could no longer tell the future, and because of that, they could no longer make money off of her skills.)*

Thrown in prison and singing

Though Paul and Silas did nothing wrong, they were accused of causing trouble by the owners of the slave girl. They were beaten and thrown in jail even if it wasn't fair. That night while they were in jail, what did they do? Show the songbook. **Were they happy or sad?** *(They were happy because they were thanking God and praising him. They were also praying to him. They saw that God would use even bad things to work for good for those who trust him.)*

What caused an earthquake to shake the prison?

God opened the doors of the prison. They opened and the chains fell off Paul and Silas. God set them free.

The jailer knew that if his prisoners escaped, he would be put to death according to Roman law. Show the knife. When he saw the doors open to the jail, what did he think had happened and what was he ready to do? *(He thought the prisoners escaped and he was ready to kill himself.)*

Who was set free?

When we take our mission adventures, I want us to think about the jailer and how he might have been trapped on the inside and how he got free. It is true. God wants to set us free.

Let's call Gordy back and talk about it.

Gordy Goes Free

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: So, Gordy, did you hear what the jailer at Philippi said about being set free?

Gordy: Yeah, I did. That's kind of cool. He felt so bad at first that he was ready to kill himself.

Presenter: Yes, it would have been awful.

Gordy: Yeah, he wasn't even the one behind bars! But maybe he felt bad on the inside.

Presenter: Yes, maybe he was a prisoner to his own sin and failure.

Gordy: Yeah, something like that.

Presenter: But what happened to him?

Gordy: Well, weren't you paying attention, *(presenters name)*? Paul didn't try to escape, instead he just wanted to share the Good News of Jesus with the jailer.

Presenter: Yes, and that night the jailer and his whole household were set free when they accepted Jesus as their Savior. They were even baptized that very night.

The Bible says in John 8:36: “So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free.”

Gordy: Yeah, I don't even think that jailer was worried anymore.

Presenter: You are right. So, Gordy, are you worried anymore?

Gordy: No, I'm not afraid of any big, bad Pastor.

Presenter: I should hope not.

Gordy: Anyway, I think I can admit what I did. Jesus has forgiven me.

Presenter: That is right, Gordy. *God wants to set you free. Do you know what you can take on your trip with you in your backpack?

Gordy: It's empty.

Presenter: That's it. It's empty because on our mission adventure, we are not carrying guilt. Jesus has taken care of our mistakes, so we don't have to carry them with us. Gordy, why don't you help us remember that and give us a closing prayer.

Gordy: Okay. Dear God, we don't want to be slaves to our own sin or selfishness. We don't want to be in jail in our own hearts. So, help us when sin traps us. Help us turn to you and trust Jesus for our forgiveness. Help us not to sin anymore or carry our guilt. Thank you for setting us free and forgiving us. In Jesus' name. Amen.