

## Paul and Silas Sing in Jail

Which is your favorite time to sing—when you're happy or when you're sad? We have lots of fun singing when we're happy, don't we, but when things go wrong and we feel sad it isn't so easy to sing. Once Paul and his friend, Silas were in big trouble, but guess what they did anyway?

Listen as I tell you.

When Paul became a believer, he was just like a different person. Oh, how Paul loved the Lord! He wanted everyone to love Jesus like he did, so wherever Paul went he preached about Jesus. He knew there were people who hated him because of his preaching. And time after time he had to run from men who were trying to kill him. But that didn't stop Paul. He was a brave man, and he trusted God to take care of him.

One day Paul and Silas were preaching and teaching, and lots of people were learning about Jesus. Some of the men in the city didn't like what Paul and Silas were saying.

“You can't do this!” they shouted. “You're causing too much trouble!”

Then they grabbed Paul and Silas and had them beaten and thrown in jail!

But, boys and girls, what had Paul and Silas done wrong to be put in jail? Nothing, except

obey God and preach about Jesus. But the soldiers beat them anyway and took them off to the jail keeper.

*“Put these men in the safest part of the jail,” they said. “And make sure they don’t get away.”*

The jail keeper pushed Paul and Silas to the very back of the jail. It was cold and dark there, but the jailor didn’t care. He didn’t even care that Paul’s and Silas’ were sore and bleeding from their beating or that they hadn’t had anything to eat for a long time. He made them sit on the floor. Then he fastened their feet in the chains that were hooked to the wall. They’d never get away. He’d see to that!

Poor Paul and Silas. They were hurting from their beating and from the chains around their ankles. They were probably cold and hungry. But do you think they sat there feeling sorry for themselves? Do you suppose Paul said, “Oh, Silas, we should NEVER have preached about Jesus. Now look where we are! This is terrible!”

Paul didn’t say those things, and neither did Silas. Do you know what they did do? Even though they were hurting, they talked to God and thanked Him for being so good to them.

Then they started to SING!

All the other prisoners in the jail heard Paul and Silas praying and singing, but they couldn’t

believe it. These men had been beaten and thrown into jail for nothing. They could have been angry or crying, but there they were, singing instead. And they even sounded  
HAPPY! How could this be?

Paul and Silas knew that God was with them. They knew He would get them out of jail when He was ready, so they just waited and prayed and sang.

Suddenly there was a loud rumbling noise, and the floor of the jail began to shake. The walls trembled, and all the doors in the jail flew open. The chains even fell from all the prisoner's legs.

Everyone was free!

"What's happening?" the jail keeper wondered as he got out of bed. He saw that all the jail doors were open. "Oh no, my prisoners!" he cried. "They'll all get away!" The jail keeper knew he'd be in BIG trouble if the prisoners ran away, so he pulled out his sword to kill himself.

*"Wait, don't hurt yourself," Paul cried "We're all here."*

Quickly the jail keeper grabbed a light and ran into the jail. Now he believed that Paul and Silas were sent by God. Now he was ready to hear about their Jesus. He fell down before them, shaking from fright, and cried, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas were glad to tell the jailor about Jesus. They explained how Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin and rose again from the tomb. They told him that anyone who asks Jesus to forgive their sins can go to Heaven someday, too.

That very night the jailor believed on Jesus. He asked Jesus to forgive his sins and to come into his heart. Then Jesus changed the jail keeper just as He changed Saul. Then he gave them something to eat.

See what a difference Jesus makes! He gives us joy even when things go wrong, and He helps us to be kind when before we were naughty.

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"I will sing unto the  
Lord"  
Psalm 104:33



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## Hand and Ankle Cuffs- Paper Chains

Cut several pieces of construction paper into approx 1" width. Length will depend on the age of the children. Make sure to cut a few that are longer for the ends. This way the children can slip the cuffs on and off without tearing them.

Help the children make paper chains to put around their hands and ankles.

With the chains on, sing a couple of songs like Paul and Silas did.