

**Church at Home Pack – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

**Join us online for our 10:30am service on Sunday**

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

**In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.**

*Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives*

**When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.**

*Acts 4:13*

**GATHER TOGETHER**

***A prayer to start –***

Amazing God,  
you can do extraordinary things through us, your ordinary people.  
We praise you and give you thanks for your great goodness.  
As we come today with open hearts,  
fill us with your confidence and courage,  
so that we may be people of goodness and truth who bring others to you.  
**Amen.**

**Action reminder –**

From the top of my head  
*(Touch head)*  
to the tips of my toes;  
*(Touch toes)*  
from the lobes of my ears  
*(Touch ear lobes)*  
to the end of my nose;  
*(Touch nose)*  
from my back, to my front  
*(Turn round)*  
to my wiggly fingers,  
*(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)*  
God loves me!  
*(jump up and down)*

## READ TOGETHER

### Acts 16: 16-34



#### International Children's Bible (ICB)

<sup>16</sup> Once, while we were going to the place for prayer, a servant girl met us. She had a special spirit in her. She earned a lot of money for her owners by telling fortunes. <sup>17</sup> This girl followed Paul and us. She said loudly, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how you can be saved!" <sup>18</sup> She kept this up for many days. This bothered Paul, so he turned and said to the spirit, "By the power of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" Immediately, the spirit came out.

<sup>19</sup> The owners of the servant girl saw this. These men knew that now they could not use her to make money. So they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the city rulers in the marketplace. <sup>20</sup> Here they brought Paul and Silas to the Roman rulers and said, "These men are Jews and are making trouble in our city. <sup>21</sup> They are teaching things that are not right for us as Romans to do." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined the attack against them. The Roman officers tore the clothes of Paul and Silas and had them beaten with rods again and again. <sup>23</sup> After being severely beaten, Paul and Silas were thrown into jail. The jailer was ordered to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> When he heard this order, he put them far inside the jail. He pinned down their feet between large blocks of wood.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly, there was a big earthquake. It was so strong that it shook the foundation of the jail. Then all the doors of the jail broke open. All the prisoners were freed from their chains. <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up and saw that the jail doors were open. He thought that the prisoners had already escaped. So he got his sword and was about to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, "Don't hurt yourself! We are all here!"



<sup>29</sup> The jailer told someone to bring a light. Then he ran inside. Shaking with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They said to him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved—you and all the people in your house." <sup>32</sup> So Paul and Silas told the message of the Lord to the jailer and all the people in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Then he and all his people were baptized immediately. <sup>34</sup> After this the jailer took Paul and Silas home and gave them food. He and his family were very happy because they now believed in God.

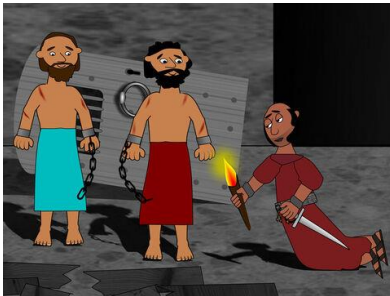
#### New International Version (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." <sup>18</sup> She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so

annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

<sup>19</sup> When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. <sup>20</sup> They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup> by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”



<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. <sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into

his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

### **A paraphrase of the story for very young children**

Paul and Silas were in prison. *(Curl up into a tight ball)*

They sang and prayed to God. *(Hands together in prayer)*

Suddenly an earthquake shook the whole prison. *(Shake your body)*

The prison doors opened and they were free! *(Fling out arms)*

But they didn’t run away. *(Shake head)*

They stayed and told the jailer about Jesus, *(spiral fingers away from mouth)*

shared God’s love, *(hold hands with the person beside you)*

and baptised the jailer and his family.

## WATCH TOGETHER



**God's Story: Paul and Silas** – Crossroads Kids Club:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y24Ak7DJZfg>



**Paul and Silas in Jail** – Saddleback Kids:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtV2PV9n3cY>



**Joy in the Sorrow of a Broken Family and Broken Bones: Erin Brindley** – Joy in the Sorrow, The Good Book Company: <https://youtu.be/f6y73aP844s>

There are several videos of individuals sharing their 'joy in sorrow' stories. You may like to look at them here to see if there's one that relates to a situation you're going through:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=joy+in+the+sorrow](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=joy+in+the+sorrow)

## TALK TOGETHER

- Has anyone ever been surprised by your reaction to difficult times?
- Have you been able to share your faith with them because of that?

## STUDY TOGETHER

### v16-18

- What the slave girl was saying about Paul and Silas was true. Why do you think that Paul became bothered or annoyed about it?
- Why do you think the evil spirit was announcing this truth?

### v19

- The slave girl's ability to tell fortunes was making her masters a lot of money. The removal of the evil spirit removed their source of income! They weren't interested in her wellbeing. They weren't interested in eternal truths and salvation. Money was their idol.

### v20-23

- Paul and Silas then end up in jail after being very badly beaten. The Christian life is not always a comfortable ride to put it mildly!  
Have you ever experienced unfairness or bad treatment because of your faith?
- What was your reaction?

### v25

- In the face of very difficult circumstances, Paul and Silas worshipped and praised God anyway. How could worshiping God in difficult times be helpful for us?

- Have you been able to praise God when things have been difficult during lockdown?
- What do you think the prisoners' reaction to their worshipful attitude was?

### v29-34

- Following the earthquake, the jailer realised his need to be saved and fell down before Paul and Silas.

Why do you think that salvation was offered not only to the jailer but to all in his household (family and servants), and they were all baptised?

*(If you're studying this with your lifegroup, here's some information to share after you've had some initial discussion about this question)*

*In the culture of the day, the whole household came under the authority of the head of the house (usually the husband/father) and if he converted to Christianity, the rest of the household also converted.*

*There was also a continuity from Judaism where the whole family lived out the Jewish faith and male children were circumcised when they were 8 days old as a sign of God's covenant (his faithful agreement with them).*

- How does this fit with the idea of a personal relationship with Jesus?
- Does this passage have anything to say about why we, as an Anglican church, baptise children as well as adults?

**Tom asks:** Can we, like Paul and Silas manage to summon up the courage and determination to discover God in the midst of our difficulties by thanking him?

How might that help?

How might that bring others to him?

## MAKE TOGETHER

### Praise Chains –



Paul and Silas were in chains, but they still praised God!

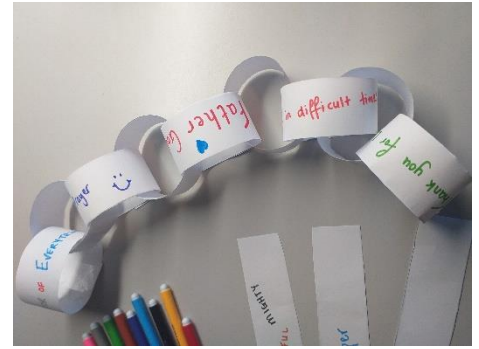
#### You will need:

Lots of strips of paper (plain or coloured)

Glue or sticky tape

Pens and pencils

Take a piece of paper and draw or write on it something that you want to praise God for. Make it into a loop and glue or stick down the ends. With the next piece of paper, thread it through the first loop before sticking down the ends and do the same with the next, and the next. Then you will have made a long chain of praise!



## PLAY TOGETHER

### Who's escaped?



Gather lots of toys, teddies or dolls and sit them in a group. You could sit them in a box or basket prison! One person is blindfolded (you can use a scarf tied over your eyes for this) and another person has to help a toy escape by quietly removing it and putting it out of sight. When the toy has been removed, the person who is blindfolded can take it off and then they have to guess 'who has escaped'. Take it in turns to be blindfolded and to be the person who helps a toy escape.

## SING TOGETHER

God loves me – Doug Horley: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEn10ocsWYA>

I will praise you no matter what - Vineyard UK Kids Worship:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUyF8zeXO30>

No matter what I'm facing – Lifetree Kids:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cd1qkujmFSE&t=46s>

Joy of the Lord – Rend Collective: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVIhb-c\\_4Tw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVIhb-c_4Tw)

Even when it hurts (Praise Song) – Hillsong United: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrSJwO5dJXq>

## REFLECT TOGETHER

### A Water Reflection

Fill a glass or bowl with some water. Think about the jailer washing Paul's wounds, then of Paul baptising the jailer and his whole family. Reflect on your own baptism or what it might mean to be baptised.



## ***Trapped or imprisoned***



- When have you felt like you've been trapped or imprisoned in a dark place?
- What allowed the light to shine in to that darkness?
- Were you able to praise God in that place?

## **PRAY TOGETHER**

*Join hands with the other people in your family to make a circle. Where the earthquake is mentioned in the prayer, shake your joined hands as you raise them in the air and then bring them back down quickly, like the walls of the prison coming down, setting the prisoners free.*

Paul and Silas were sent to prison – **you sent the earthquake to set them free.**

They weren't afraid, they knew you were there – **you sent the earthquake to set them free.**

They prayed to you and sang your praises – **you sent the earthquake to set them free.**

They told others all about you – **you sent the earthquake to set them free.**

Thank you, God, for sending the earthquake to set Paul and Silas free.

Help us always to be aware of your presence in our lives day by day.

Amen.

*If you're with other people you might like to link arms as you say this prayer. If you're on your own, ring someone up and pray this with them or say it on your own whilst thinking of your church family:*

Together we are strong enough to bear one another's burdens.

Together we can talk about special things.

Together we can face all that lies ahead.

Together we can praise you when others laugh at us.

Together we can make the world a better place.

Together we can celebrate that we are your people.

**Amen.**

## **DO TOGETHER**

### ***Worship God Everyday***

***v25: About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God.***

***The other prisoners were listening to them.***



No matter what situations you find yourself in this week, make a commitment to worship God in the everyday things of your life.

First thing in the morning, out on a walk or while you are washing up...

- Choose your favourite worship music or hymn.
- Think about what it says about God and share that with your family or a friend.
- Listen to the words and sing songs of praise.

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