

SINGING IN JAIL (PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON)



Acts 16:16–34

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Acts 16:30–31

MEMORY VERSE

He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." **Acts 16:30–31**

Darkness surrounds us, and the world is growing increasingly more dangerous. Airline restrictions go up and down like a roller coaster as terrorists discover new ways to crash a plane. Countries develop nuclear arms because of international distrust. Escalating wars rage on. Death hovers over schools as murderers threaten the security of our children. Threats are projected towards us from Middle Eastern countries and terrorist organizations. What are we to do?

Read Acts 16:16–34. Paul and Silas had been severely beaten and then thrown in jail for freeing a slave girl from an evil spirit. They could have given up, but they chose to sing and pray, offering worship to God.

This is an amazing testimony of faith and devotion to God. These men could have looked at the darkness surrounding them and written everything off as a lost cause. Nevertheless, their love for God and their desire for His glory to be displayed far outweighed their fear of death. This love punched holes in the darkness, offering light to the jailer and his family.

Teens hear the news and are aware of current events. They need assurance that there is a future for them. As parents, you can offer them the assurance they need by reminding them that God is aware of their circumstances. Assure them of His sovereignty over the entire world. He may allow us to go through difficult times, but He assures us of His constant abiding presence (Matt. 28:20).

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

The family collects newspaper articles that spell out the darkness of the world. The family discusses: **What is the most discouraging thing about what we read in these articles?**

Explore . . .

First, a family member reads aloud Acts 16:16–34. Then, another family member reads aloud: **Paul and Silas were caught in a difficult circumstance beyond their control. We've all been there.**

Say: **Paul and Silas' consequences were severe, but God was sovereign over their circumstances and turned their hearts to worship Him, eventually using the situation to save an entire household.**

Transform . . .

The family remembers and discusses how God was at work in dark times before. Next, they discuss what God is capable of doing when difficult and even frightening situations occur. Last, the family uses this information to decide and commit on how they will respond to God when everything turns dark around them.

Dark days are a certainty in this life. Pray that your family will become proactive in deciding how they will face these days before they come.

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