



Singing in Jail

Acts 16:16-40

Story Context for Leader:

Paul and Barnabas decided to go on a second missionary trip, but Barnabas wanted to take John Mark again, and Paul refused. He felt John Mark had deserted them on the last trip. Therefore Barnabas took John Mark, and Paul took Silas.

Along the way Paul and Silas found a young man named Timothy. He was highly respected by all of the believers, so Paul encouraged him to join their ministry.

One night, Paul had a dream. A man was calling to him. "Cross over the sea and come help us." Paul awoke and knew that this was from God. So they sailed across the sea to a city of Philippi.

Bible-Telling Story

Slave Girl

A demon-possessed slave girl started following Paul and Silas through the streets of Philippi. She made money for her owners by predicting the future. She started yelling, "These men are from God and are here to tell us about salvation."

She did this for several days. Finally Paul turned and said to the spirit, "Leave that girl! By the name of Jesus Christ, come out of her." Immediately the spirit left her.

Singing in Jail

Her owners were furious! They took Paul and Silas to the city officials and said, "These Jews came to Philippi and started teaching the citizens of Rome about their God. It's not right!" The city officials agreed and had the two men beaten and taken to jail. The jailer put them in chains.

Around midnight, Paul and Silas started praying, singing, and giving praise to God. Suddenly an earthquake shook the foundations of the jail. The doors flew open and the chains fell off the prisoners.

The jailer woke up and saw that the doors were open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he pulled out his sword to kill himself. Paul shouted, "Wait! Don't do that! We are all here."

The jailer grabbed a torch and rushed into the cell. He fell down and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your family." The jailer took them to his home and Paul explained the message of Christ. The entire family believed and was baptized. The jailer then washed the wounds of the men and served them a meal.

Roman Citizens

The next morning the city officials sent guards to the jailer. They said, "You may release those men and let them go their way."

Paul sent a message back to the city officials. "We're not leaving! We're Roman citizens, and you had us beaten publicly and thrown into jail without a trial. Now you want us to leave quietly. We're not going. If you want us to leave, you'll have to come and personally release us."

The city officials were shocked when they heard that the men were Roman citizens. They rushed to the jail and quickly apologized. They personally brought them out of the jail and asked them to please leave the city.

Slave Girl

**one hand following the other
finger out from head and point far off
hands around mouth**

*slave girl followed them – foretold the future
These men are here to tell us about salvation*

thumb over shoulder – thumb over shoulder
Leave that girl – spirit left her

Singing in Jail

hands point same direction – palm out
owners took them to city officials – not right

fist hit palm – wrists together
beat them & put them in jail

hands go up from mouth – shaking hands
praising God and singing – earthquake

fist like holding a sword stab into self
jailer going to kill himself

palms up – hands point to self
Don't do that – we are all here

**hands move down – hands together
touch both palms**
*jailer fell down – what must I do?
Believe on Jesus*

hands move around – sign for baptize
whole family believed & were baptized

Roman Citizens

thumb point out – palms back and forth
You may release them – we're not going

one hand up while other on chest
We are Roman citizens

fist on palm – wrists together
You beat us and put us in jail w/o trial

hands together and head bowed
quickly apologized