



Family Lesson 82

Principle: God's power cannot be restrained.

Bible Character(s): Peter

Scripture Reference: Acts 16:25-34

1. Worship - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Today, we will discuss God's power in our physical world as well as God's power to change our hearts and bring us into the freedom found in Christ.

Last week, we learned about the power of prayer. How did Peter get out of prison? The church prayed earnestly, or hard, for Peter. And God heard their prayers. How did God respond to the church's prayers? He answered by sending an angel to lead Peter out of prison. Prayer is our most powerful tool as followers of Jesus. He wants us to depend on him in prayer. He hears our prayers and answers them according to his will.

Today, we will continue to see how powerful prayer is, how powerful God is, and that his power cannot be restrained. Paul and Silas are teaching in a place called Macedonia. There is a demon possessed slave girl who can tell people secrets about their lives, and she is following Paul and Silas. Paul commands the demon to leave her, and it does. Her owners become angry with Paul because she is not worth any money to her owners anymore. These people have Paul and Silas beaten with rods and thrown into prison.

Let's read from Acts 16 [NLT] to see what happens while Paul and Silas are in prison.

Acts 16:25-26

²⁵ Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. ²⁶ Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

Paul and Silas are beaten before being put in prison. How do Paul and Silas respond to the beating when they are in prison? (Allow responses.) **They pray and sing hymns to God. What are the other prisoners doing?** (Allow responses.) **The other prisoners are listening to Paul and Silas. Despite the suffering Paul and Silas endure, they are still praising God. How would you have reacted if you were beaten and then put in prison? Would you pray and praise God?** (Allow responses.)

God then sends an earthquake to show how powerful he is. God's power is stronger than prison doors and chains. God frees all of the prisoners because his power cannot be restrained.

As the earthquake from God frees the prisoners, the jailer wakes up. In those times, if a prisoner escapes, then the jailer would be killed in the prisoner's place. So the jailer is very scared! Paul yells out to him that all of the prisoners are still there. The prisoners have not left the jail, even though their chains have fallen off and the doors are opened.

You could act out the next part as a family to help your child have a better understanding of the passage.

Supplies:

Acts 16: 25-34 passage (found on [GCK resource page](#))

Bowl

Towel

One person can be Paul, one can be Silas, and one can be the jailer. A parent can narrate.

What does the jailer do when he hears Paul and Silas tell him the prisoners are still there? (Allow responses.) **He immediately responds by asking what he must do to be saved. We do not know how much the jailer knows about Jesus, but he has probably heard why Paul and Silas have been put in prison, and he has probably heard them praying and singing hymns to God while in prison. What do Paul and Silas tell the jailer he has to do to be saved?** (Allow responses.) **They tell him he must believe in Jesus, meaning he needs to believe that Jesus is Lord and that he died on the cross to save us from our sin. They do not tell him that he has to do a bunch of good deeds or change anything about himself. He only has to believe and trust in Jesus as Savior. Did they only tell the jailer about Jesus?** (Allow responses.) **They tell the jailer's whole household as well! What does the jailer do next?** (Allow responses.) **He washes Paul and Silas' wounds. Why do you think he does this?** (Allow responses.) **The jailer is probably the one who beat Paul and Silas. After the jailer believes, God changes his heart. He desires to help Paul and Silas because God has forgiven his sins. The jailer has been saved, and then he worships God by serving Paul and Silas. After this, he and his household are baptized.**

The jailer does not wash Paul and Silas' wounds so that he can be saved. He doesn't act a certain way or change his actions so that he can be saved. All he does is believe and trust in Jesus as Savior. This applies to us as well. We cannot earn our salvation by doing good things. Romans 10:9 tells us, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you

will be saved." God uses his power to change our hearts and to save us from our sin. If God can cause an earthquake to break chains and open prison doors, we know he has the power to change each of our hearts.

We also see that the jailer and his whole family are baptized right away. Remember when we learned about the Great Commission? Can anyone tell me what the Great Commission is? (Allow responses.) **Jesus told his disciples how to live their lives as his followers. Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." We learned that when others come to believe, they can choose to be baptized as an outward symbol of an inward heart change. The jailer and his family showed that they truly did believe by being baptized.**

Help your child recognize God's display of power. Talk about how our world reveals God's power. (Ex. wind, rain, thunder, lightning, earthquake, ocean waves, etc.)

Can we do anything to stop God's power? Can we stop the wind or rain? Can we slow down a wave? (Allow responses.) **No, that power is too big for us—nothing can stop it! And our world only reveals a small level of God's power! God is more powerful than we can even understand. Nothing could keep God's power from breaking the chains and the locks in the jail and freeing the prisoners!**

Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Ask God to help us trust in him and his power to do anything. Pray that your child would be like the jailer and believe in Jesus.

Activity

“Earthquakes, Broken Chains, Death to Life and Heart Change”- the purpose is to review how God displayed his power

Supplies:

Paper

Markers, Crayons, or Colored Pencils

Tape or Stapler

On a piece of paper, have your child write Matthew 19:26 in sections that can be cut apart. Cut the verse apart in strips. Use the strips to create a chain to remind your child of how God displayed his power.

Jesus looked at them and said “With man, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.”

God’s power cannot be restrained or stopped. Even though Paul and Silas were in prison, God freed them by sending an earthquake to open the doors and loosen their chains. But Paul and Silas did not escape and run away. They saw this as an opportunity to share Jesus with the jailer. God’s power saved not only the jailer, but his whole family as well. God wants us to believe in his power and trust that anything is possible with him. God’s power cannot be restrained!

