12a Singing for God – Bible Story

Paul: One day, when we were on the way to the place for prayer, we met a woman who was a slave. She had a spirit that enabled her to predict the future. She made a lot of money for her owners through fortune-telling. She kept following us around and shouting.

Woman: These people are servants of the Most High God! They are proclaiming a way of salvation to you!

Paul: The woman kept doing this for several days. Finally, I turned to her and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to leave her!" The spirit left her immediately.

Silas: The woman was happy, but people were very angry. They realized that their hope for making money was gone. They grabbed us and dragged us before the officials in the city center. The crowd joined in the attacks against us, so the authorities ordered that we be thrown them into prison.

Jailer: I received instructions to secure us so they couldn't get out. I threw them into the innermost cell and secured their feet in stocks.

Paul: The jailer put us in stocks and chained us, but Silas and I both knew God was there with us. Around midnight we were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to us. All at once there was a violent earthquake that shook the prison's foundations. The doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

Jailer: I had fallen asleep in the jail, but the shaking and noise woke me. The jail doors flew open and the prisoners' chains came loose. The prisoners were free to escape. I had promised the authorities I would keep Paul and Silas safely in jail, but I hadn't counted on an earthquake. The responsibility for losing the prisoners would fall on me. I was worried, but then I heard someone shouting at me.

Paul: Don't harm yourself! We're all here!

Jailer: I got some lights and rushed into the cells. The shout had come from Paul, and all of the prisoners were still in their cells. All I could do was fall down trembling before Paul and Silas and ask them, "Honorable masters, what must I do to be rescued?"

Paul: God was with us, and we were so happy about the jailer's question. We told him to believe in the Lord Jesus, and he would be saved—along with his entire household.

Silas: The jailer washed their wounds. Then the jailer and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought Paul and Silas into his home and gave them a meal. He was overjoyed because he and everyone in his household had come to believe in God. The next day Paul and Silas left the prison and made their way to Lydia's house where they encouraged the church with what God had done for them.

(Based on Acts 16:16-40)

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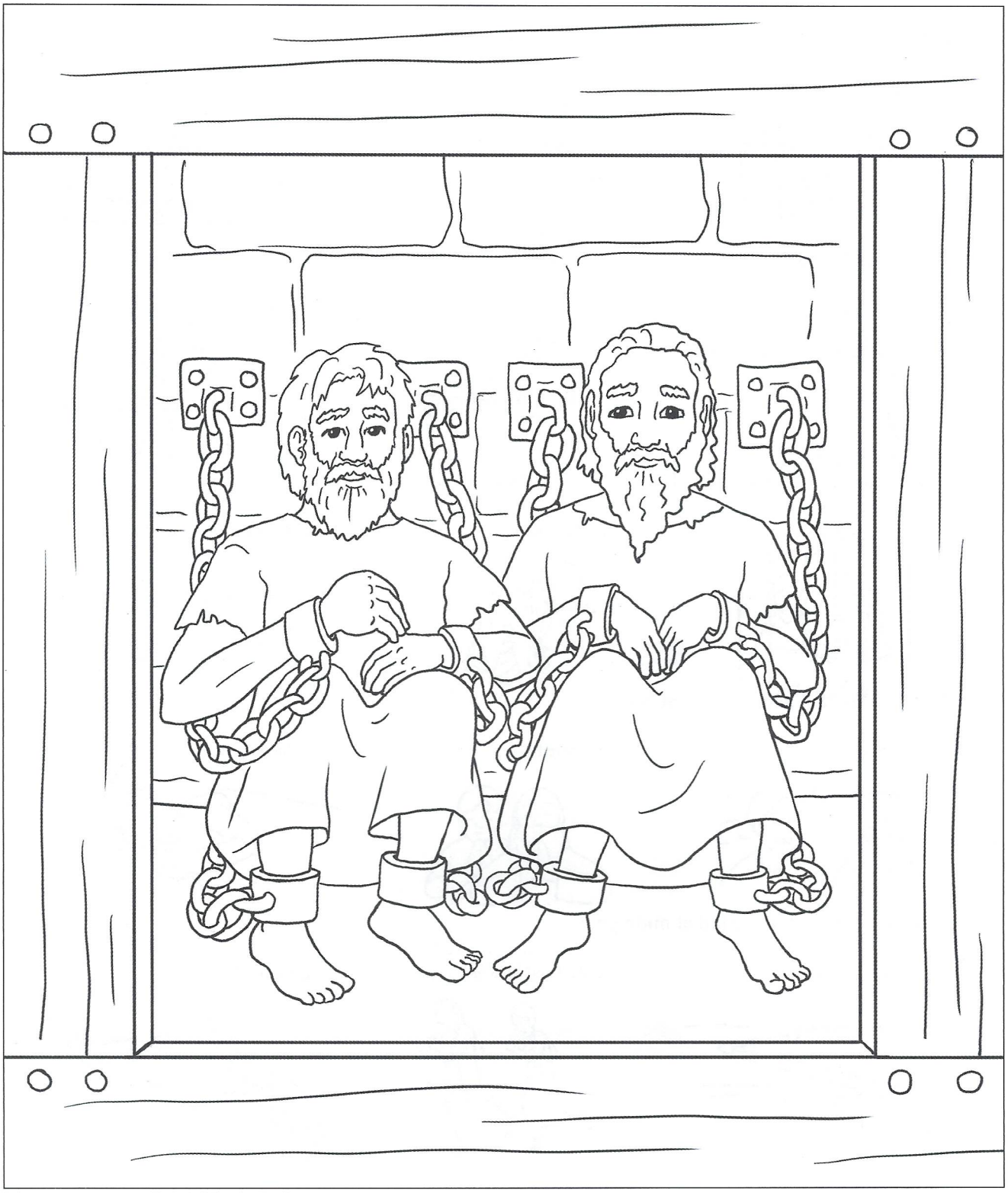
Paul and Silas in Jail – Puzzle (Preschool)

12b

Paul and Silas were put in jail for preaching about Jesus, but they spent the time singing praises to God. Color the picture of Paul and Silas in jail. Then punch holes in the top and bottom and lace yarn through the holes to make the prison bars.



Art: Carol Schwartz/Storybook Arts
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12c Choose the Answers – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

Choose the correct answers to the questions and circle them. More than one answer can be correct for the questions. If you need help, read Acts 16:16-40 in your Bible.

1. What did the slave woman do to Paul and Silas?

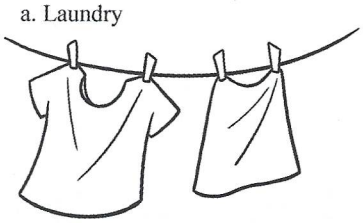
a. Followed them

b. Shouted

c. Made food for them to eat

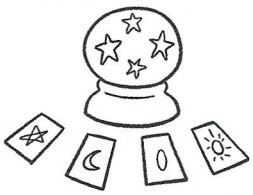
2. What did the slave woman do for her owners?

a. Laundry



b. Made money

c. Told fortunes

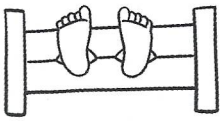


3. What happened to Paul and Silas when they healed the slave woman?

a. Thrown in jail

b. Had a party

c. Put their feet in stocks



4. What did Paul and Silas do in jail?

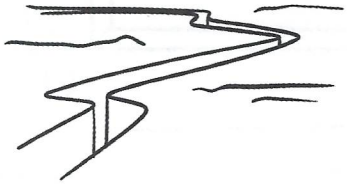
a. Sang

b. Prayed

c. Slept

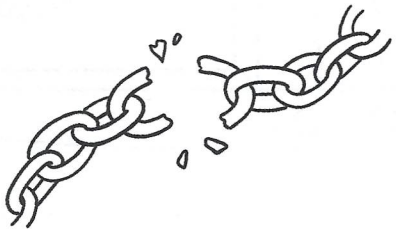
5. What happened in the jail at midnight?

a. Earthquake



b. Paul and Silas ran away

c. Chains broke



Art: Mary Grace Corpus/Gwen Walters
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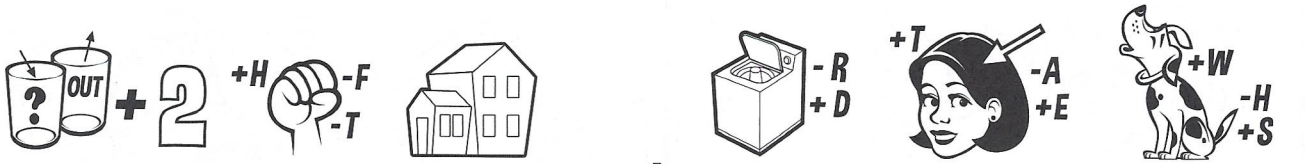
Solve the Rebus – Puzzle (Older Elementary) 12d

What happened to Paul and Silas after the earthquake shook the jail? Solve the rebus and find the answer.

The _____ _____ _____ and _____



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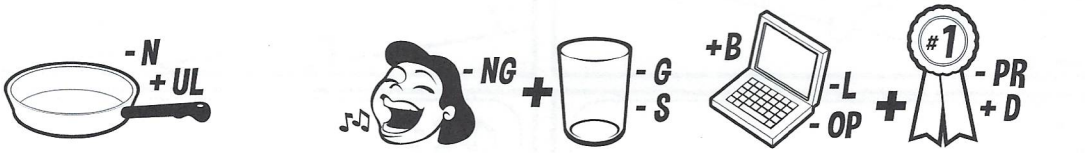

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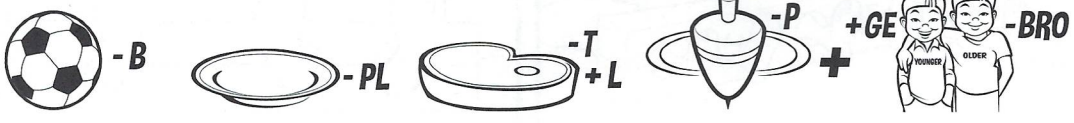

_____ _____ a _____ _____

Art: Mark Collins/Deborah Wolfe
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12e Favorite Hymn – Craft

Art: Mark Collins/Deborah Wolfe
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PSALM 100:1	ALL THE EARTH!	TO THE LORD	SHOUT TRIUMPHANTLY

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Singing for God

Acts 16:16-40

Paul and Silas traveled to different cities telling people about Jesus' love. In one city, they met a woman who was a slave. She made a lot of money for her owners because she could tell people's fortunes. Paul freed the woman. That made her owners mad, so they had Paul and Silas thrown in jail. But Paul and Silas knew God was always with them, so they sang and prayed in the jail. At midnight, an earthquake shook the jail and all of the prisoners' chains fell off. The strange thing in this story is none of the prisoners ran away when they had the chance. The jailer was so amazed that he and all his family believed in Jesus that night.

Verse of the Month

Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth! Psalm 100:1

What Do You Think?

How would you feel if you were thrown in jail for doing God's work?

Why do you think the prisoners didn't run away?

Family Activity

Talk about how God is always with us even in scary situations.

What do you do when someone accuses you of doing something bad that you didn't do?

What songs do you sing to feel better?

Prayer

Dear God, help us remember your goodness and praise you even when we're afraid; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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