

Beginner Level, Block 10, Week 6
Paul and Silas—Singing and Praying While in Prison

Point to Emphasize: We can talk to God and sing, even when things are not going our way.

Reference Reading: Acts 16:19-40

Memory Verse: I will sing to Jehovah while I live... (Psalm 104:33a)

Story Sample

Last week we talked about how Saul learned different things as he was growing up. When Saul was a young man, his name was changed to Paul. He loved to talk to people about how wonderful Jesus was.

One time, he and Silas were in a city talking about Jesus. As they were sharing, some of the crowd got very angry with them. They called the city officials and had Paul and Silas thrown into prison. We can say that things were not going Paul's way that day. He and Silas were not only in prison but had their feet tightly bound. This was not a nice place to be, was it? NO! None of us would like to imagine people in such an awful place.

But late that night all the prisoners heard something that you would never expect to hear in a prison. Instead of moaning and groaning, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God! All the other prisoners listened as they heard Paul and Silas. This was a sweet sound to their ears.

The end of this story is really wonderful! Because Paul and Silas sang and prayed in that prison, the jailer and his family heard the good news about Jesus and became followers of Jesus! But do you think the story would have ended this way if Paul and Silas were to complain and shout, "This is not fair!" No, complaining and saying it is not fair when things don't go your way is what almost everyone would expect, so it would not impress or change anyone. But since Paul and Silas opened their mouth to pray and sing hymns, the story turned out so well for the jailer and his family!

It is surprising how many times people complain about the littlest things. Whenever I have to stand in line at the grocery store, I am reminded of how easy it is to complain. It seems that standing in line ruins the day. People always start to complain when they have to stand in line for a bit. I have learned to hum a short hymn or a children's meeting song when I am stuck in a grocery store line. I often hum it or sing quietly as I wait. I have learned that complaining about it makes me feel mad BUT when I sing or hum a children's meeting song, I am happy. Waiting in line is not bad then. *[Storyteller, share your own example of singing or talking to God out loud.]*

We all can be like Paul and Silas to sing to God. When you are waiting for your mom to get finished with her phone call, or when you are waiting until your dad is finished reading, you can sing your favorite children's meeting song. It is so good to know lots of songs from the children's meeting. I'm sure that sometime soon, when you are not so happy about how things are going or where you are at, you will remember one of these songs. Instead of frowning and complaining, you can be one who sings to God just like Paul and Silas.

Beginner Level, Block 10, Week 7 **Timothy—Growing up Learning God’s Word**

Point to Emphasize: We can grow up learning God’s Word.

Reading Reference: Acts 16:1-2; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15

Memory Verse: And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings... (2 Timothy 3:15a)

Story Sample

As children, you learn so many things from your parents and from your grandparents. What are the things you want to learn from your mother or from your grandmother? Maybe you want to learn how to bake yummy brownies. I simply wanted to learn how to make rice. My mom is the best at making rice. Since I was a little girl, I would watch her whenever she was cooking. When I was tall enough, my mom would let me help her, and then as I kept growing, I kept practicing. Now I can make rice just like hers! *[Storyteller, insert your personal example.]* Little by little your parents can teach you all the things they know. You just have to be patient to be an observer and a good learner.

The Bible talks about a young man named Timothy who grew up with his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. I’m sure Timothy’s mother and grandmother taught him many things. But the Bible tells us of the one thing that they taught him. They taught him the sacred writings. What are the sacred writings? When Timothy was a child, all they had was the Old Testament, and it was considered the sacred writings. From the time Timothy was a young child, he was taught God’s Word. He grew up learning God’s Word from his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. It may be that Timothy and his mom and grandmother had times together in God’s Word. Maybe they prayed and sang songs to God together. Because Timothy grew up knowing God’s Word, as a young man, he became very useful to God.

One family might read a verse together before they eat dinner. Another family might sing songs like, “Our God is so big” as they drive in the car. One mom or dad might wake up his children every morning by going to sing to them in their rooms. *[Storyteller, insert your own example of how your family does something related to God together.]*

Even as young children we can sing songs with our family and with our hearts to God. We can also be in God’s Word together. With our own family there are many ways that, like Timothy, we can grow up knowing God’s Word and loving God. Can anyone share about a time when your family prayed or sang or said a verse together? Maybe we can even do it today. Let’s all think about which verse we want to say or song we want to sing with our family today. *[Have children share.]*

At age five or six it is the perfect time to learn many things from your parents, uncles, aunts, and grandparents! I would like you all to look and see what kinds of things you can learn from your parents. *[Let the children discuss.]* But more importantly, I would like you to learn from them what you can about God’s Word, so as you grow older you can be as useful as Timothy, because you know God’s Word.

Beginner Level, Block 10, Week 8
Timothy—Being a Pattern in Word and Conduct

Point to Emphasize: We can be patterns in what we say and in what we do.

Reference Reading: 1 Timothy 4:12; *Life-study of 1 Timothy*, Message 8

Memory Verse: Let no one despise your youth, but be a pattern ... in word, in conduct...
(1 Timothy 4:12a)

Story Sample

In the Bible, Paul wrote two letters to Timothy [*show them in the Bible*]. So, you might think that Timothy was a very important man, right? He was important to God, but others just saw him as someone who was young, not so healthy, and not so sure of himself. Yet Paul charged Timothy to be a pattern in word and in conduct. Often people whom we look up to as patterns are a lot older than us. But here Paul is strongly charging a young one that he must be an example in how to talk to others, in what kind of words he should let out of his mouth, as well as how he ought to behave around others.

Sometimes we are not so careful in what we say to others. Maybe you are outside playing ball with your friends and one of them drops the ball. You begin to make fun of them for dropping the ball, and the next thing you know, everyone else is also making fun of them. That's because they followed you as a pattern. But, if you had instead said something encouraging to them, like, "That's all right, just try again", your other friends might have followed you to do the same thing.

Maybe this is how Timothy became a pattern in word. He certainly must have taken care of what words came out of his mouth. And he probably took care of how he spoke to others.

Paul also told Timothy to be a good pattern in his conduct, in how he behaved and acted. He trusted Timothy to be this kind of a person, one who was a good example to others.

One night we had a number of boys over for dinner. After we were done eating, I started to clear the dirty plates from the table. One of these boys stood up and started doing the same. Soon another joined him, and then two of them were cleaning up. I really appreciated their help. Now tell me, what caused the second boy to start clearing the dirty dishes from the table? [*Let the children guess.*] Right! He was following the pattern of the first one. [*Storyteller, share your own story.*]

We should follow the ones who are good patterns in what they say and in what they do. Not only that, but WE should also be the ones who are good patterns in what we say and in what we do. We can be like Timothy! Even though he was young, weak, and timid, he was still a pattern to others by his speaking and by his conduct. We are not too young to be a pattern to others in what we say and how we behave. Let's practice for the rest of this day to be a pattern to others in what we say, how we say it, and in what we do.

Beginner Level, Block 10, Week 9
Aquila and Priscilla—Having an Open Home

Point to Emphasize: We can help our parents have an open home.

Reference Reading: Acts 18:2; Romans 16:3, 5; 1 Corinthians 16:19

Memory Verse: ...Always pursue what is good both for one another and for all.
(1 Thessalonians 5:15b)

Story Sample

Who here has had a meeting in their home? *[Talk with the children about this meeting.]* Do you know of others that have had meetings in their homes? *[Talk with the children about the people they know that have meetings—prayer meetings, children’s meetings, etc.]*

There was a couple in the New Testament who had meetings in their home, too. They were Aquila and Priscilla. They often would travel to a city sharing the good news about Jesus with the people there. They would live in the city for a while. Sometimes they stayed in a city for a few years. Of course, all the ones who received the good news about Jesus from them wanted to come together. Aquila and Priscilla would open their home so that all the ones they shared with could gather together. This couple did not have any children, so they had to get the house ready all by themselves in order to have others over.

What kinds of things do you think they had to do to get their house ready? *[Let the children come up with things—cleaning up, doing dishes, putting everything away, cleaning the bathroom, cleaning the kitchen, sweeping the floor, putting the chairs in place.]* Are these the same kinds of things that need to happen at your house when others come to meet there? Yes! And I am sure that when you help, getting the house ready takes less time than if mom and dad had to do it all. What things do you help with? *[Let the children discuss together.]* I am sure that you all are happy helpers!

There is a family that has a lot of meetings in their apartment. Since the father gets home just as guests are arriving, it is the mom and the two children who take care of preparing for the meeting. The three of them work together to pick up everything in the living room and put it away. Then mom sweeps and mops the tile floor. As it dries, they all go into the kitchen to prepare the snack. Then the five-year-old daughter starts arranging the chairs in the living room. The eleven-year-old son gets the songbooks, Bibles, and prints out the portion they will read that evening. Now, everything is ready! The children always like helping get things ready since this is one of the best evenings of the week! They enjoy having people come to their home. *[Storyteller, include your own story.]*

I know that these children are like Aquila and Priscilla in that they really enjoy preparing their place so that people can come to the meeting in their home. We all can help, so that our home is open for others to come! Then when you are grown up and have a place of your own, you will want to open it too, just like Aquila and Priscilla.

Beginner Level, Block 10, Week 10 **Apostle John—Being Faithful To the End**

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who are faithful to God all the days of our lives.

Reading Reference: 1 John 2:1, note 1; 2 John 3, note 1; Ephesians 6:1-3; *CWWN*, vol. 4, "The Christian," ch. 1; *Life-study of 1, 2, 3 John and Jude*, msg. 13, 19; *CWWN*, vol. 35, "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," ch. 11

Memory Verse: Train up a child according to the way he should go; / Even when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Story Sample

Who knows someone who is over ninety years old? Maybe your great grandparent? Wow! Ninety-four! That's a lot of years! How old are you now? Five, six, or seven-years-old? This means you have lived very few years. Someone who is over ninety has lived for many years. They've had a full life. It is a blessing to live a long life.

There was a person in the New Testament who lived for over ninety years old. His name was John. John was a young person when Jesus lived on earth. John knew Jesus and became a close follower of Him. And he remained a follower all the years that he lived. If we were to use one word to describe John, we can use the word ***faithful***. John remained faithful, loyal, and steadfast all the days of his life. This is just wonderful! He was faithful not just for a few days or for a few years. He was faithful his entire life!

One of my grandfathers lived until he was eighty-seven years old. He was so sweet and caring. Whenever we would visit him, he was out in the backyard humming the melody of a hymn. He was a happy person. Even when he was getting older and was using a cane to help him walk, he always had a smile on his face. He loved all his grandchildren so much. He had all our pictures on his wall and would pray for each one of us every day. He enjoyed singing. I would play the guitar, and he would sit next to me to sing to God. My grandfather was faithful to his wife, to his children, and to all his grandchildren. But most importantly, he was faithful to God. From the first day he heard about God, all the way until his last day, he loved God and was faithful to God. *[Storyteller, please insert your personal story of someone you know who was faithful to God until their last days.]*

I hope by hearing this today, you will be inspired to live a long life and to be a faithful person. You were born into a family that loves God. And your life has only started. I hope you all live a long life. The Bible says it is a blessing to live a long life. John was blessed to live a very long life and he was faithful to God all those years. You can start being faithful today. You can be faithful to God every time you learn a verse and sing a children's meeting song. You are also faithful to God when you get ready quickly to be on time for children's meeting. As you continue to grow, you can also be faithful as a young person and as an adult. I hope we all have a blessed long life like John and remain faithful to God all our years.