

# Bible Background

## Acts 16: 6-40

In today's Bible story, Paul and his associate, Silas, are in Macedonia. The decision to travel to this area came about in an interesting way. One night, after trying to move to a couple of different places, Paul had a dream. In the dream, a man told the apostle to come and share the good news with the people of Macedonia. Paul and Silas immediately began their journey to this new destination.

Eventually, Paul and Silas arrive at a city called Philippi. Paul's custom was to begin building relationships with the Jewish people living in the cities of the Roman Empire. He and Silas found a group of women who met to pray near the shore of a river. These women would become the foundation of the church that later grows in Philippi.

From there, the story takes a few interesting turns. One of the women, Lydia, invited Paul into her home. As Paul and Silas were on their way to the place of prayer, a strange woman began proclaiming loudly that Paul and Silas were servants of the Most High God and that people should listen to them. The woman is a slave and made money for her masters by telling fortunes. This continued for many days until, finally having had enough, Paul says, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to leave her!" (Acts 16:18). At this, the spirit inside the woman left. But her masters weren't happy—their way of making money had been taken away, so they looked to take revenge on Paul and Silas.

The men took Paul and Silas before city officials and accused them of causing trouble in the city. The whole city turned against Paul and Silas, and eventually they were beaten and imprisoned. Around midnight, Paul and Silas were singing hymns of worship when an earthquake shook the jail. All the doors swung open, and the prisoners inside were free. Fearing that he would face terrible punishment for losing prisoners, the jailer shook before Paul and asked, "What must I do to be rescued?" Paul told the jailer about Jesus, and the man and his family became followers of Christ.

Through all the twists and turns of this story, we see a jailer and his family being told the good news of Jesus—we see a story of salvation. For Paul, the armor associated with salvation is the helmet. Helmets are incredibly important for any dangerous activity. Not only do they protect your brain, they also protect your eyes and ears. We can almost hear Paul saying, "Keep your wits about you. Don't lose sight of the salvation you've experienced in Jesus." Remembering this truth protected Paul as he faced many obstacles—even the threat of death. When you are facing dangerous or scary times, you can choose to be like Paul and "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power" (Ephesians 6:10).



### Bible Story Midnight Praise with Paul and Silas

Acts 16:16-40

### Castle Callout Armor Up with Salvation!

### Additional Bible Reading

📖 Romans 10:9

📖 Ephesians 6

### 👤 Teacher Tip

This Bible Background feature is a supplemental aid provided for you, the leader, to give context for each session's story before you teach on it. You may share this information with your Knights if desired, but it is not a recommended portion of the intended lesson.