



BIBLE LESSONS FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The five lessons in this volume may be used in conjunction with the five-chapter story, *The Pilgrim's Progress, Visualized*. Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson 1

THE PHILIPPIAN JAILOR

Scripture to be studied: Acts 16:16-34

Memory Verse:

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.
(Acts 16:31)

Aim of the Lesson: To answer two questions:

1. How can I get rid of my burden of sin?
2. What must I do to be saved? (To show students their need and the One Who can meet that need.)

The missionary party was following its marching orders given by God. It was Paul who had received the orders one night as he slept. As he dreamed, a man from the land of Macedonia appeared to him and said, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us."

Paul told Silas and the others about it. "I know it was more than a dream. I know it was a message from the Lord. We must change our plans and go to Macedonia." Everyone agreed that it was a message from God. The men were ready and eager to carry to a new land the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



Show Illustration # 1

Those were busy days of preaching the Gospel in a new city. They were exciting days, too—and difficult ones! "The biggest problem in our work seems to be that girl," Paul decided. And the other missionaries agreed with him.

"Of course we know she isn't right in her mind. Those wicked men have her in their power. They've made people believe that she can tell fortunes. They're making a lot of money."

Every day the girl followed them through the streets of the city. She shouted at the top of her voice, "These men are the servants of the Most High God! They show us the way of salvation!" Over and over she repeated it. What she said was really true! But because everyone knew that she did not have her right mind, people had nothing to do with the missionaries. As Paul and the other missionaries went to the place where they gathered to pray, they talked to God about it. "Heavenly Father, we've come to this country because we are following Your directions. Help us to know what to do about this girl. Give us

the opportunity to show someone how to be saved." Paul knew God loved the girl, as well as the rest of the people in the city. God loves you, too, no matter who you are.

Again the girl followed them down the street. "These men are the servants of the Most High God! They show us the way of salvation!" she screamed. Suddenly Paul knew exactly what to do. He knew that it was the power of Satan which made the girl act as she did.

So he turned around and cried to the wicked spirit, "I command you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." Immediately the girl was well! She was in her right mind!



Show Illustration # 2

The men in the crowd began shouting angrily. Rushing to missionaries Paul and Silas, they yelled angry threats. "What are you doing in our city? You're only bringing trouble!"

Paul and Silas knew that these were the men who kept that poor girl in their power. They were angry because they couldn't use her to tell fortunes anymore. Before anyone had opportunity to explain, the men grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them (probably by the feet, cf. Acts 14:19) through the streets of the city. The crowd followed. At the marketplace the men took Paul and Silas before the city police chiefs. "These men do not belong in our city!" they screamed. "They are strangers here. They are bringing a great deal of trouble to our city. They are teaching things which are not for us. They do not belong here. Get rid of them!"

"They will be punished," the city officials answered. "Take off their clothes!" Their clothes were ripped off. "Beat them!" the police commanded. Long whips were used. The whips lashed across their bare backs until Paul and Silas were bruised and cut and bleeding.

Paul and Silas remembered how the Lord Jesus suffered for them. He, too, was beaten and bruised. The Bible says the Lord Jesus suffered for sins that He might bring us to God. (See 1 Peter 3:18.) He did not suffer for His sins, because He had none. He is the perfect Son of God. He suffered for your sins and mine. God must punish sin. And Christ Jesus took the