

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 21 June 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Fruit of the Spirit / Peace – Paul and Silas go to jail
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Galatians 5:16-26; Acts 16:16-36
- **CONCEPT:** The Holy Spirit gives me peace

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that God is with them, no matter where they are or what is happening, and that He can give them His peace in spite of circumstances.
- To help kids realise that God's Holy Spirit living in us makes us more like Jesus.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with soft toy pig / picture of pig inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Fruit tree picture (the same one you used last week)
- ✓ Basket of fruit with at least nine pieces of fruit (real or artificial)
- ✓ Peace symbol images (e.g. peace lily, shalom, the V sign, etc. Find these on the Internet by typing 'peace symbol' into your preferred search engine. Save images and insert into your presentation.)
- ✓ Slide showing the word 'peace'
- ✓ Globe or map
- ✓ Child actors: Paul, Silas, 2 police officers, jailer (choose kids as you tell the story)
- ✓ Lectern
- ✓ Judge's hat for yourself
- ✓ Prison area – make this from old cardboard boxes, sheets, etc. in a corner of your room.
- ✓ Length of door lock chain (around 2 metres)
- ✓ Chair
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>then other people should be able to see love and joy. That is some of the fruit of the Spirit in us. But that's not all! Today, we're going to talk about something else.</p> <p>I'm going to show you some pictures. I want you to guess what we're going to think about today. If you think you know, put up your hand before you answer.</p> <p><i>Show a series of peace symbols on screen, e.g. peace lily, shalom, V sign, etc. and encourage discussion among the kids. Allow kids to ask questions. Allow them to guess today's theme. ... Show the word 'peace' on screen.</i></p> <p>Peace. What is peace? What does it mean if a country is at peace? <i>(There is no war or fighting.)</i> What does your mum mean when she says to you, "Give my head peace!"? <i>(Stop talking, stop being noisy, be quiet, etc.)</i> That's right. Peace is when there is no fighting and no noise. But even when it's nice and quiet, sometimes people don't <i>feel</i> peace inside them <i>(point to your heart)</i>. That's because we all have things we worry about. We all have problems. We get annoyed and upset about things, and when we worry and get upset, we don't have peace, do we?</p> <p>Paul – the man whose life was changed – was on a trip to Greece. Who could find Greece on our globe? <i>Allow a child to find Greece. Compare the location of Greece to your country. Point out the distance between Jerusalem and Greece – Paul's journey.</i> Paul had travelled hundreds of miles across land and sea with his friends Silas, Timothy and Luke to tell as many people as they could about Jesus. They had stopped for a while in a Greek city called Philippi.</p> <p>4. Tell the story</p> <p>Paul and his friends had been in Philippi for quite a few days already. Rumours had started to spread. People in the city were talking about them.</p> <p>"I heard that those strangers are trying to make us change!" said someone. "Don't they know we're Romans? We don't need to hear what they have to say! How would they know the way to be saved? Who is this Jesus anyway? Those men should go back home. No one wants them here."</p> <p>That was the word on the street. The trouble was, the city police had heard it too.</p> <p>One day, Paul and Silas were on their way to a prayer meeting. <i>Have Paul and Silas actors walk around the room.</i></p> <p><i>Stand behind a lectern and take on the role of a court judge. You may want to wear some kind of hat so kids understand you are now in character.</i> Arrest those men! Where are my police officers? [Adam], [David], run after those strangers and arrest them! Bring them back here to me. Hurry!" <i>Call on two or three kids to bring back your Paul and Silas actors.</i></p> <p><i>Address Paul and Silas. Name? Excuse me? Your Worship! Mister Paul, you must call me, 'Your Worship'. Got that? And you? Who are</i></p>	<p><i>Peace symbol images</i></p> <p><i>Slide: peace</i></p> <p><i>Globe or map</i></p> <p><i>Paul and Silas actors</i></p> <p><i>Lectern Judge's hat 2 Police officer actors</i></p>
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you? Mister Silas. Right! Mister Paul and Mister Silas, I have heard that you have come here all the way from Jerusalem. You are here, teaching the lovely people of Philippi about this man, guy, dude called Jesus. *Address the group of kids – Isn't that right?*

You are trying to make my people change their ways. *Address the group of kids – Isn't this true?*

You are teaching them things that are against our Roman law. I will not stand for this kind of behaviour in my city. You must be punished. Police! Lead them out! *Open a door. Usher the police and Paul and Silas out of the room. Follow them out. The kids left in the room will be wondering what is happening. Make plenty of noise with the kids as if the police are beating up Paul and Silas. Kick and punch the walls, have the kids pretend to scream in pain, let them ruffle their hair if they want to, etc. After a couple of minutes, lead them all back into the room.*

This way to the city prison! Come on. *Lead the kids to a corner of your room set up with cardboard boxes to represent the prison and have the sit down.* Now, Mister Paul and Mister Silas, you can spend some time in my prison thinking about what you have done wrong. Where is the jailer? Mister [Chris], tie up these men in chains. No, in fact, I will do it myself. *Wrap a length of door lock chain around the wrists and ankles of Paul and Silas who should be sitting. Do not fasten or tie the chain tightly, it should remain loose at all times. This is just an illustration!* Mister Jailer, make sure they don't escape. If they do manage to get out here, you will be in serious trouble. Do you understand?

The police may sit down. Push the lectern to the side and remove your hat. Have the jailer sit in a chair near the prison and pretend to fall asleep.

Paul and Silas were hurting so much after the beating they got from the police. Even though they were tired, they couldn't sleep. It was dark and smelly in the prison. The chains were heavy and hurt their skin. They had so many reasons to be scared. They could have spent the night complaining about everything that had happened. But they didn't. Paul and Silas knew that God was still watching over them even though it had been such a bad day. They decided that the best thing they could do was to pray. And that's what they did! They started talking to God, thanking Him for Jesus and the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit, thanking Him for being with them on their long journey to Philippi, thanking Him for the people they had already met on the way and been able to tell about Jesus, asking Him to bless and look after the police and the judge who had been so terrible to them, asking Him to watch over them and keep them safe from harm while they were in prison, praying that God would do something to get them out of there so they could tell more people about Jesus. Paul and Silas prayed, and they even sang songs! The other prisoners could hear them singing to God. Maybe a song like ... *sing a few choruses with the kids, e.g. 'God is so good'; 'I've got peace like a river'; 'Deep and wide'; 'I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart'.*

It was about midnight. Paul and Silas were still singing and praying to God. Suddenly, the ground started to shake. The prisoners could hear

Prison – boxes, sheets, etc.

Jailer actor

Length of door lock chain

Chair for jailer

the loud rumbling coming from deep under the ground. The prison walls started to shake too. It was an earthquake! The earthquake was so strong that all the doors of the prison flew open! Everything was shaking so much that the chains became loose and fell off the prisoners! *Have Paul and Silas shake their chains off.* They were free. No chains, no locked doors, they could run.

The jailer had woken up from his sleep too. When he saw the doors of the prison lying wide open, he panicked. "Oh no!" he thought, "I'm in serious trouble now! The judge is gonna kill me for this!"

Paul shouted out in the darkness, "Hey, Mister Jailer, don't worry! We're all still here!"

The jailer called his guards to bring some lights into the prison. He couldn't believe his eyes! All the prisoners were still there! They were free to go, but they were still there! This was amazing! The jailer fell down on his knees (*have jailer do this*) and said to Paul and Silas, "I want to know more about your God. What must I do to be saved? Please tell me, how do I trust Jesus?"

Paul and Silas told him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31) The jailer washed the cuts on Paul and Silas that they had got from the police who had beaten them earlier. Then he took them back to his house, in the middle of the night, and gave them something to eat. Paul and Silas explained to the jailer and his family that they could all be saved. All they had to do was believe in Jesus, trust Jesus to forgive all the bad things they had done wrong, and ask Jesus to be with them every day from now on. That was it. That night, the jailer and his whole family believed in God; they gave their hearts to Jesus and they became Christians. The jailer and his family were filled with love and joy.

The next day, the people of Philippi were talking about what had happened the night before at the prison. The judge decided that Paul and Silas should be released from prison. They were free to leave. God had been with them all along.

Your actors may all sit down again with the other kids.

5. Explain

Boys and girls, Paul and Silas were arrested for no good reason. They were beaten up. They were locked up in prison. They could have gotten mad at the police and the judge. They could have worried themselves sick about whether they would ever get out of prison. They could have moaned and groaned about their cuts and bruises and being chained up in the dark, smelly prison all night. But they didn't! They prayed and sang songs to God! You see, they weren't worried. They knew that God was looking after them. They believed that He wouldn't leave them all alone, even though things looked bad. Paul and Silas were full of God's peace. They didn't need to worry about their problems and get upset because they had God's peace inside them. They trusted God no matter what was happening, no matter where they were. Paul and Silas understood that God was with them everywhere they went, even in prison.

What about you? Do you have God's peace in your heart? The Bible

tells us that it's difficult to understand God's peace; it's so amazing. But let's say you are being bullied at school. You probably should feel a bit worried about that, but if you spend time telling God about it, then you can feel His peace in you. For God is going to be with you, no matter what happens, just like he was with Paul and Silas.

C. Prayer Net

10 minutes

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to God and He listens.
2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.
3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations.
4. *Explain:* When we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about we need to tell God about those things. Do you have God's peace in your heart today, or is there something worrying you? There are lots of things that can stop us from feeling peace in our hearts. Here is a poem that talks about some of those things that might be stopping you from feeling peace.

Whatif

Last night while I lay thinking here,
Some Whatifs crawled inside my ear
And pranced and partied all night long
And sang their same old Whatif song:

Whatif I'm dumb in school?
Whatif they've closed the swimming pool?
Whatif I get beat up?
Whatif there's poison in my cup?
Whatif I start to cry?
Whatif I get sick and die?
Whatif I [flunk] fail that test?
Whatif green hair grows on my chest?
Whatif nobody likes me?
Whatif a bolt of lightning strikes me?
Whatif I don't grow taller?
Whatif my head starts getting smaller?
Whatif the fish won't bite?
Whatif the wind tears up my kite?
Whatif they start a war?
Whatif my parents get divorced?
Whatif the bus is late?
Whatif my teeth don't grow in straight?
Whatif I tear my [pants] clothes?
Whatif I never learn to dance?
Everything seems well, and then
The nighttime Whatifs strike again!

(Shel Silverstein. Published in *A Light in the Attic*, 1981)

<http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/Shel-Silverstein/13488>

Is there something you want to tell God about? We can ask Him to help you with those things and give you His peace in your heart.

You'll need ...

Net (with last week's prayer cards)

Small cards / postcards

A pen

<p>5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.</p> <p>6. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net.</p>	
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <p>1. Ask kids to put their mats away.</p> <p>2. <i>Recap:</i> Paul and Silas knew that God was looking after them. They believed that He wouldn't leave them all alone, even though things looked bad. Paul and Silas were full of God's peace. They didn't need to worry about their problems and get upset because they had God's peace inside them. They trusted God no matter what was happening, no matter where they were. Paul and Silas understood that God was with them everywhere they went, and He will be with you too. You just have to ask Him. Let's put the chain into the treasure chest to remind us of the story of Paul and Silas going to prison for God.</p> <p>3. Sing a closing song. (<i>I am not Forgotten</i>)</p> <p>4. Remind kids to come back this evening.</p> <p>5. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>	<p>7 minutes</p> <p><i>You'll need ...</i></p> <p><i>Length of door lock chain</i> <i>Treasure chest</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 21 June 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse through banana games.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by folding peace doves.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / laptop / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Task:
 - Slide – Galatians 5:22 (first, second and third fruit)
 - Pre-made card banana labelled 'peace'
(which you will later fix to your display. See photos below.)
 - 2 bananas (for games)
- ✓ Activity:
 - Tables
 - Dove picture (find this online by typing 'dove' into your preferred search engine and then save to your computer)
 - Pre-made doily dove (see activity section below for photos and instructions)
Idea from <http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-dove.html>
 - 20cm round white paper doilies (at least one per child)
 - Scissors (for adults only)
 - Optional:* lengths of coloured ribbon
 - Stapler and staples
 - A branch fixed to the ceiling (to hang doves from)
- ✓ Pre-made banana lollies (one per child – recipe included in materials)
- ✓ Name tag box

E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing two songs together. (<i>I am not Forgotten / Everyday</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get their mats and sit down.	You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Supernatural</i>)
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F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 15 minutes <i>"... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace ..."</i> (Galatians 5:22) 1. Ask a few questions to recap today's story of Paul and Silas going to prison: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What city were Paul and his friends in? <i>Philippi, Greece</i> - Paul and Silas were arrested on their way to a prayer meeting. Why? <i>They were teaching the people of Philippi about Jesus. The city leaders did not like this and decided to punish them.</i> - Paul and Silas were beaten up and thrown into prison. How were they feeling and what did they do? <i>Paul and Silas were sore and tired. The chains were heavy and hurt their skin. They had so many reasons to be scared. They could have spent the night complaining about everything that had happened. But they didn't. Paul and Silas decided that the best thing they could do was to pray. They started talking to God, praying that God would do something to get them out of there so they could tell more people about Jesus. As Paul and Silas prayed, they sang songs of praise to God too!</i> - What happened around midnight? <i>Paul and Silas were still singing and praying to God. Suddenly, the ground started to shake. It was an earthquake! The earthquake was so strong that all the doors of the prison flew open! Everything was shaking so much that the chains became loose and fell off the prisoners!</i> - The jailer thought he was in big trouble! He thought all his prisoners had escaped. But Paul called out to him that they were still there. What did the jailer do for Paul and Silas? <i>He washed their cuts and took them back to his house for something to eat.</i> - What important question did the jailer ask Paul and Silas? <i>"What must I do to be saved?"</i> - What answer did Paul give him? <i>"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."</i> (Acts 16:31) 2. <i>Explain:</i> Paul and Silas explained to the jailer and his family that they could all be saved. All they had to do was believe in Jesus, trust Jesus to forgive all the bad things they had done wrong, and ask Jesus to be with them every day from now on. That was it. That night, the jailer and his whole family believed in God; they gave their hearts to Jesus and they became Christians. The jailer and his family were filled with love and joy. 3. <i>Explain:</i> Paul and Silas knew that God was looking after them. They believed that He wouldn't leave them all alone, even though things looked bad. Paul and Silas were full of God's peace. They didn't need to worry about their problems and get upset because they had God's peace inside them. They trusted God no matter what was happening, no matter where they were. Paul and Silas	You'll need ...
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<p>understood that God's Holy Spirit was with them everywhere they went, and He is with us too. That's what our memory verse says. <i>Show verse on screen and read aloud together:</i> "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace ..." Galatians 5:22.</p> <p>4. Repeat verse a few times together as a group, and individually, until you feel kids know it well. <i>Move to a blank screen.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Explain:</i> Over the last two weeks we have talked about love and joy. We put our love strawberry and joyful orange on the wall to remind us of this fruit of the Spirit. Today, we've been thinking about peace, and how the Holy Spirit can give us peace in our hearts. I chose a banana to remind us of that. <i>Show kids a pre-made card banana labelled with 'peace' that you will add to your notice board display.</i> Did you know that eating a banana before you go to bed can help you have a good night's sleep? That's why it's a peaceful fruit! I'm going to stick this on the wall a little later.</p> <p>6. Ask kids to put their mats away. Take kids to a large room, e.g. a sports hall. Divide kids into two teams. Have each team line up at one end of your room.</p> <p>7. <i>Explain:</i> We're going to play some banana relay races. First game: The first person in each team will get a banana. When I say, 'Go!', the person with the banana must run with the banana in hand to the other side of the hall, touch the wall, run back again, pass the banana to the next person in their team, and then sit down at the back of the line. Keep doing this until everyone has run with the bananas. The first team to finish, with everyone sitting down, wins. Don't drop the bananas!</p> <p>8. Give the first two kids a banana each. Have all kids repeat the memory verse once before starting the game. Play the game. Congratulate the winners.</p> <p>9. <i>Explain:</i> Next game: Stay in your teams. Pass the banana to the person at the front of your team line. Put the banana under your armpit and hold it there with your arm. When I say, 'Go!', the person with the banana must hop to the other side of the hall, touch the wall, hop back again, pass the banana to the next person in their team, and then sit down at the back of the line. Keep doing this until everyone has hopped with a banana under their arm. The first team to finish, with everyone sitting down, wins. Don't drop the bananas!</p> <p>10. Make sure the first two kids in the team lines have the bananas under their arms. Have all kids repeat the memory verse once again before starting the game. Play the game. Congratulate the winners.</p> <p>11. <i>Explain:</i> Last game: Stay in your teams. Pass the banana to the person at the front of your team line. Put the banana between your knees and hold it there. When I say, 'Go!', the person with the banana must jump to the other side of the hall, touch the wall, jump back again, pass the banana to the next person in their team, and then sit down at the back of the line. Keep doing this until everyone has jumped with a banana between their knees. The first team to finish, with everyone sitting down, wins. Don't drop the bananas!</p> <p>12. Make sure the first two kids in the team lines have the bananas</p>	<p><i>Memory verse slide (Galatians 5:22)</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made card banana labelled 'peace'</i></p> <p><i>2 bananas</i></p>
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<p>between their knees. Have all kids repeat the memory verse once more before starting the game. Play the game. Congratulate the winners.</p> <p>13. Finish with a group repetition of the verse. Take kids back to your room.</p> <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it later in the series.</p>	
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<p>G. Activity</p> <p>1. Set out tables as a workspace and have kids find a space around them.</p> <p>2. <i>Explain:</i> Paul and Silas were arrested for no good reason. They were beaten up. They were locked up in prison. They could have gotten mad at the police and the judge. They could have worried themselves sick about whether they would ever get out of prison. They could have moaned and groaned about their cuts and bruises and being chained up in the dark, smelly prison all night. But they didn't! They prayed and sang songs to God! They weren't worried. They knew that God was looking after them and that He wouldn't leave them all alone, even though things looked bad. Paul and Silas were full of God's peace. What about you? Do you have God's peace in your heart? The Bible tells us that it's difficult to understand God's peace; it's so amazing. But let's say you are being bullied at school, or your parents are arguing a lot, or you don't understand something at school. Those are things we tend to worry about, but if we spend time telling God about them, then we can feel His peace in us. For God is going to be with us, no matter what happens, just like he was with Paul and Silas.</p> <p>3. <i>Explain:</i> One of the symbols of peace is a dove. <i>Show dove on screen.</i> When people all around the world see a dove, they think of peace. Today, we're going to make peace doves. <i>Show kids your pre-made dove.</i> Doves are white birds so we're using fancy white paper doilies. You must watch carefully what I do so that you fold your paper the right way.</p> <p>4. Give each child a 20cm diameter round paper doily.</p> <p>5. Make sure you have kids' attention. Fold your doily in half. Help kids do the same.</p> <p>6. Fold the doily in half again. Help kids do the same.</p> <p>7. Open up the last fold. Fold both ends to meet the crease in the centre. Help kids do the same.</p> <p>8. Fold the doily in half. Help kids do the same.</p> <p>9. The single creased edge is the dove's body – the top of the bird. Make a 4-5cm cut, starting about a third of the way up the outside frilled edge, parallel with the closest straight side – the open folds, not the single creased edge. Do this, or have adult helpers do this for the kids. Wait until all kids' doilies have been cut.</p> <p>10. Fold one parallel cut side up to make a wing. Turn the doily over and repeat the fold on the other side to make the second wing. Help kids do the same.</p> <p>11. As you look at it, the wings should be pointing upwards and the</p>	<p>10 minutes</p> <p>You'll need ...</p> <p>Tables</p> <p>Dove picture</p> <p>Pre-made dove</p> <p>20cm round white paper doilies</p> <p>Scissors</p>
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<p>tail downwards. Push and fold the front pointed tip of the folded doily inwards to create the head. You should now see a beak pointing downwards. Help kids make the dove's head.</p> <p>*Idea from http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-dove.html</p> <p>12. <i>Optional:</i> Allow kids to choose a length of coloured ribbon to attach to their dove. You or an adult helper should staple the ribbon to the dove. Fix a branch to the ceiling of your room. Invite kids to come and hang their doves on the branch. As you tie and hang their dove on the branch for them, ask them to say a prayer, giving their worries and problems to God and asking for His peace.</p>	<p><i>Lengths of coloured ribbon</i> <i>Stapler and staples</i> <i>Branch</i></p>
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<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 7 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (Everyday) 2. Close in prayer. 3. Ask kids to recite the memory verse once more altogether. Give each child a pre-made banana lolly to remind them that the fruit of the Spirit is peace. Remind kids that no matter where we are, no matter what is happening, God is watching over us. He is in control so we don't need to worry. Instead, we can have peace in our hearts. 4. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made banana lollies</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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