

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



PHILIPPIANS 1 CHAIN REACTION

Scripture: Acts 16:16–34, Philippians 1:12–26

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Popsicle sticks of different colors

Explain:

Today, we're going to start a new book of the Bible. This book was really a letter to the church in Philippi called Philippians. The letter was written by Paul. Can anyone tell me who Paul was? (Allow for answers)

Whenever we read a book of the Bible, it's important to learn as much as we can about the book first. We actually have recorded in the book of Acts the beginning of the Philippian church.

Read Acts 16:16–34

Ask:

That was quite the start to a church, huh? What do you think you would've done if you were Silas?

Can you believe they were singing hymns of praise through this difficulty? This is such a great example for us. We can praise God no matter our circumstances.

Read Philippians 1:12–26

Explain:

Here again we see Paul rejoicing in something that others might be upset by. He is writing this letter to the Philippians while he is in prison for preaching the gospel! But this doesn't stop him! He even argues that the gospel is advancing in part because of his chains. This probably came as a shock to the Philippians. How could the gospel advanced when Paul is chained?

Explain Continued:

It's advancing for a few reasons. First, others are taking on the work of preaching. Possibly afraid that word would stop spreading with Paul in chains, others are taking on the business of teaching it themselves. Some have wonderful motives, and some have less-than-desirable motives, but Paul doesn't care because, either way, the gospel is being preached.

The good news of Jesus is also spreading because Paul is stuck to prison guards all day, every day. Can you imagine being one of those guards? You would hear Paul's prayers, his teachings, his letter dictations. You would know the gospel inside and out whether you wanted to or not! I have to imagine that God touched the heart of several of those soldiers as they listened to Paul's words about Jesus.

Activity

Have the kids build interlocking popsicle sticks in order to create a chain reaction of potential energy that suddenly becomes kinetic energy. Following the pictures, interlock the popsicle sticks. If you need assistance, YouTube has several videos on popsicle chain reactions you can review.

Either have the kids create their own chain, or create a big chain throughout the room. Once your chain is big enough, let go of the end piece and watch it fly!

Explain:

God can use us wherever we are, no matter our circumstances. You may not be in chains, but you may be a bit of an outcast. Kids may call you "weird" at school. You may not fit in because you don't listen to the same music as others. People might be annoyed that you're "always talking about Jesus." If that's the case, be encouraged! Paul was in chains for "always talking about Jesus" and he certainly didn't fit in. Yet, because of his faithfulness, God's word spread. His chains caused a chain reaction throughout his known world. And God's Word and work in your life can cause a chain reaction, too!

Ask:

What can you do this week to advance the gospel? What chain reaction can you start by spreading love or showing kindness? Is there an enemy you can love? A person who doesn't know Jesus that you can tell about him?

Memorize: Philippians 1:14

Close in Prayer

