

APRIL'S THEME

PREPARE

SCRIPTURE Acts 16:16-34

BOTTOM LINE We can set our captors free.



•Tonight we will be in the choir format and we will have communion.

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:

THINK ABOUT THIS

Tonight is the last regular night of StuMin for this school year. The seniors will again share about what God has done in their lives during their time with us so that we might connect our stories. Our Bible story for tonight centers on the unjust imprisonment of Paul and Silas. This is the third of this type of story in the book of Acts, but it ends a little differently than the others. Instead of God providing escape or freedom for Paul and Silas, God uses Paul and Silas to free the jailor. Sometimes when we find ourselves bullied and treated unjustly, we only want freedom for us. What we have to remember is that God is interested in freedom for ALL people, even those who hurt us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Connect

Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your "highs" and "lows" with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week.

Message

- What stuck out to you from the testimonies of the senior tonight? Have you had similar feelings or experiences in your relationship with God? How so?
- Where do you hope to be in your relationship with God by the time you're a senior? Do you have a clear sense as to how to make that happen?

Devotional: Acts 16-16-34

Even if everyone's words and actions lined up all the time, growing up would be difficult. Add the fact that most people in middle and high school are walking stew pots of conflicting emotions, motives, and needs it takes a lot of patience and love to maintain healthy relationships. That was the case with my friend Jake. Jake and I became buddies during our time in show choir (jazz hands!). He sat at my lunch table and we had a similar circle of friends. Over the summer leading into our sophomore year, Jake started to hang out with some of the older kids. By the time fall came, he was mostly hanging out with that older group.



That older group of kids, to put it nicely, was pretty crummy to most people. Snarky side comments, talking behind your back, and generally being petty were a few of their favorite pastimes. Well, Jake fell into that flow and eventually directed that behavior in my direction. It was hard to be treated that way by someone I considered a friend. The feeling was one of being put in jail by a friend because of the way our social world worked.

One day I heard through the grapevine that Jake's parents were splitting up. As a child of parents that divorced, I knew how hard that was so I reached out to Jake to let him know that if he needed to talk about it, I was available. His response was the type of thing I would have expected from him prior to him joining this new friend group. He said that he was glad that I reached out to him, and he also said he was sorry for the way he had been treating me.

I feel like this is what was happening in Paul and Silas' experience with the jailor. The jailor was working a job that made him do things he didn't always want to do. Yet, God used Paul and Silas to free him from that life while showing him something even better.

- Can you think of a situation where you've been hurt by someone else? How so?
- Can you think of a way that both you and the 'jailor' could be set free? What would that look like? (keep in mind that we're not advocating compromising boundaries or not recognizing just solutions to tough problems.)
- Do you think that our culture has a "winner take all" mentality when it comes to conflict resolution? What are some examples you can think of? Where do you think that comes from?
- What does it do to your picture of God to think that God wants to save the 'bad guys' as much as the good guys? Does it hurt or help your image of God?
- Have you ever been the jailor who was set free? What was that experience like for you?



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

**STUDENT
MINISTRY**

APR 25
SMALL GROUP GUIDE | MS/HS

EXTRAS

Group Goals for 2019

What You Need: Goals sheet and writing utensil

What you Do: We rarely achieve goals we don't set. What do you want your group to accomplish next year? Do you want to get closer? How are you going to do that? Do you want to grow by three people? How are you going to do that? Do you want to learn something new? How are you going to do that? Use the attached goal sheet to create three goals for your group in 2019. Graduating groups, this is KEY for you. No matter where you go, Prince of Peace will always be your home church.

JUST FOR FUN

Group Photos

What You Need: Nothing

What You Do: Come to the sanctuary stage where we will get a photo of your group for our StuMin digital yearbook.