



## Children's Story

Cycle C: Easter 7

# From Prison to Freedom!

**Title:** From Prison to Freedom!  
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**Text:** Acts 16:16-34

Today is the 7th Sunday of Easter, the season when Christians around the world celebrate that Jesus is alive! You might wonder what difference does it make that Jesus is alive? We can't see him or touch him, so does it matter that the disciples saw him on Easter morning? During this Easter season, we are hearing stories from the Bible book of Acts. The stories are about what happens to the disciples after Jesus goes to heaven.

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**Bible story:**

One day, when the preachers, Paul and Silas, were praying, a strange thing happened. A slave girl started yelling: "Paul and Silas are here to preach good news and salvation." What she said was true, but her yelling was very loud. There was something wrong with the slave girl, and she was not able to stop herself from yelling things all the time. This slave girl's owners used her strange sickness to make lots of money by telling people's fortunes. The girl followed Paul everywhere, yelling, until Paul got very annoyed. He healed her by saying; "in the name of Jesus Christ". That was good for the girl since it set her free from her sickness. But the slave girl's owners were angry because now they couldn't use her to make lots of money. So the slave owners had Paul and Silas beat up and thrown in jail. In the middle of the night, God sent an earthquake. It shook so hard that the prison doors opened up. Paul and Silas were free! The jailer was amazed at how God had set the prisoners free. Instead of locking them up again, he took them to his own house, gave them bandages for their sores, and fed them a meal. The jailer and his whole family became Jesus followers that night, because they saw how God sets people free.

**Sophie:**

On Tuesday, when Sophie got home from school, she heard a bang against the living room window. When she ran outside, she found a little grey sparrow lying on the ground. Sophie felt bad for the little bird. It couldn't fly away, and if stayed on the ground, her cat might find it before it had a chance to get better. Sophie's Dad helped her get an old bird cage from where it was stored in the garage. She gently put the bird inside and brought the cage into her room. After a half hour or so, the little bird was fluttering around. It looked so cute. Sophie thought she would keep it. She would keep it safe so it could never hit another window or get eaten

by a cat. Maybe she could even charge her friends a dollar to come see the bird up close. She was busy making plans for the bird, her bird, when her Dad came into the room to see how things were going.

Sophie told him she wanted to keep it. Her dad was quiet for a moment, then he said, "Sophie, do you think the sparrow will like being in a cage all its life? Is that what God made the sparrow to do?"

Sophie thought about how she would feel if she was trapped. "I would like to be free. I think God wants to set people free," She said.

Sophie and her dad took the cage outside. Sophie opened it and when the little sparrow chirped and flew out, Sophie knew she had done the right thing.

**Prayer:**

Thank you God that you are in control of my life. You love me so much that you let me make decisions, even though some of my choices might be wrong sometimes. Thank you that you will always pick me up and give me a chance to be free. Help me to make choices that show Your love to other people too. AMEN

**Question for adults:**

What things "imprison" you? Can you trust God to set you free when you are trapped?