

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



FRIENDS TOGETHER

Acts 15:40; 16:16–40 Paul and Silas

Each child will need:

- Scissors, pens/pencils and a sheet of A4 paper

You will need:

- Pen/pencil and paper to jot down notes
- Find out where Christians are being persecuted for their faith today: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/> – see Pray It section
- Perhaps you have a story through someone in your corps, church or community who could share a story of their experience of being persecuted for their beliefs – see Pray It section

Silas, like Paul, was a prophet who encouraged and strengthened other believers. They became friends who went on mission trips together to tell others of God's story and God's love and to serve God.

We need to spend time with people who can be our friends, those who are similar to us in age and interests, and are there for us in the good times and hard times. Paul and Silas faced difficult times together but helped each other through.

Start It

Activity 1

Play a game of 'I'm going on a trip and I'm going to pack ...' One person begins and says what they are going to pack. The next child repeats what the previous person took and then adds a new item and so on.

Activity 2

Ask children to share part of their favourite song or a song they enjoy. Perhaps they could share it too using YouTube, play on their device ...

Write down each child's favourite song to create a playlist of songs you enjoy as friends. You could send this to their adults so children can listen further.

💡 **Say:** It's great having friends who we can play, learn, and share with.

Ask: Who is someone you consider to be a close friend? What is special about them?

Be sensitive in case there are friendship issues. Give children time to share or time to think about their answers.

💡 **Say:** Today we are going to be exploring the story of two friends who went through a lot together but supported and helped each other along the way.

Sing It

This catchy song tells us about different people in the Bible who demonstrated strength and courage with God at their side. It reminds us to be strong and courageous.

'Be strong' by Hillsong Kids (2 mins 23 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NENosj521RQ>

Tell It

🗨️ **Say:** After Saul's conversion, when he changed his heart and mind about Jesus, he began using the name Paul. He visited different cities and people telling them all about Jesus. Paul didn't go alone, though. He had close and trusted friends who also followed God. They went with him and they helped each other, like his friend Silas.

Video

Find out what happened to Paul and Silas. Watch *God's Story: Paul and Silas* by Crossroads Kids' Club (3 mins 42 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y24Ak7DJZFg>

Discuss

- ➔ How do you think Paul and Silas felt visiting people to share the good news of Jesus?
- ➔ Why do you think Paul and Silas were such good friends?
- ➔ How do you think they felt when their friendship and relationship with God was tested?
- ➔ Have you ever had a friendship tested? Were you able to keep going?
- ➔ Who are the people you would go with to tell others about Jesus?
- ➔ Who are the people you can go to, to tell about Jesus?

🗨️ **Say:** Silas, like Paul, was a prophet who encouraged and strengthened other believers. They became friends who went on mission trips together to tell others of God's story and God's love and to serve God.

🗨️ **Say:** We need to spend time with people who can be our friends, those who are similar to us in age and interests, and are there for us in the good times and hard times. Paul and Silas faced difficult times together but helped each other through.

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** Let's think about the different friends we have in our lives.

Ask: What makes someone a good friend?

Charades

Ask children to think of and act out silently a scenario where they helped or were helped by a friend. Everyone else tries to guess what happened.

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** Paul and Silas were put in prison for following Jesus. Around the world today, there are still places where people who follow Jesus are treated badly. Do you know of any of these places?

Share any information you have found out. Perhaps there is a story from your corps, church or community that you can also share.

🗨️ **Say:** In the United Kingdom and Ireland we are free to choose if we follow Jesus. I wonder if that means it is always easy.

🗨️ **Say:** Good friends can help and support each other through good times and hard times.

Activity

Ask the children to fold a piece of A4 paper in half and to place their hand on top, with their thumb and index finger along the folded edge. Draw around their handprint and cut along

the line, remembering not to snip along the fold. When the paper is unfolded there should be a heart between two hand prints. (Leaders should practise this beforehand.)

Along the fingers, and palm of the left hand, write the names of your friends who help and support you. Along the fingers and palm of your right hand, write the names of those who you want to share with about Jesus.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.