**Paul & Silas**

*An Odd Place to Sing*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pul Paul | 1 student |  | Prisoner 1 | 1 student |
| Silas | 1 student |  | Prisoner 2 | 1 student |
| Girl | 1 student |  | Jailer’s wife | 1 student |
| Accusers | 2 students |  | Jailer’s children | 2 students |
| Judge | 1 student |  | Narrators | 5 students (mixed voices) |
| Jailer | 1 student |  | Crowd | Unlimited |
|  |  |  | Props & scene change | Student helpers |

**Dramatis Personae**

Scene 1 – a park in the city

**Narrator 1:** There once lived two men who loved to tell others about Jesus.

**Narrator 2:** The name of the first one was Paul. (*Paul comes on stage*)

**Narrator 3:** And the second was named Silas. (*Silas comes on stage*)

**Narrator 4:** One day Paul and Silas were praying under a tree. *(sit under a tree and pray)*

**Narrator 5:** Then a girl came and started causing problems.

**Girl:** (*comes on stage, acting abnormal, making silly noises)*

*(Paul and Silas look with concern)*

*(Girl then point at Peter and Silas)* Look at these holy men! Look, everybody, look! Ha ha ha! *(laughing loudly)*

**Girl:** *(Paul and Silas get up, try to get nearer to talk to Girl)* Ooooh! The praying men! *(point at them)* They have pity for me. How funny! Ha ha ha!

*(Paul and Silas start feeling annoyed)*

**Girl:** Ha ha ha, you silly men! Who cares for your prayers, huh?

**Narrator 1:** The girl had an evil spirit inside her.

**Paul:** *(to Silas)* This girl has an evil spirit inside of her.

**Silas:** Poor girl! Let us pray to God, to get rid of the evil spirit. (*Paul and Silas kneel down to pray*)

**Girl:** *(calm and normal)* I feel very fine. Everything is beautiful! *(smile warmly)*

*(Paul & Silas get up, move towards girl with happy faces)*

**Girl:** *(to Paul & Silas, with excitement*) I am free from the evil spirit. I am so happy!

**Paul & Silas:** (t*ogether*) We are happy too! Praise be to Jesus Christ! *(nod to girl, ready to leave stage)*

**Narrator 2:** But wait! *(Paul & Silas stop abruptly)*

**Narrator 3:** Not everyone was happy.

**Narrator 4:** You see, the evil spirit had helped the girl do something special.

**Narrator 5:** It helped her to tell the future!

**Narrator 1:** Whose future?

**Narrator 2:** Anybody who believed.

**Narrator 3:** And anybody with money to pay for her words.

**Narrator 4:** So, some men had made lots of money from the girl.

(e*nter Accuser 1 & 2, waving arms, looking angry*)

**Narrator 5:** Now these men will lose their income.

**Narrator 1:** So of course, they were angry. *(Accusers wave arms)*

**Narrator 2:** Oh yes, they were mad! *(Accusers start pushing Paul & Silas)*

**Narrator 3:** A crowd started to form around Paul and Silas. (e*nter crowd*)

**Narrator 4:** The men started to tell lies about Paul and Silas.

**Accuser 1:** (*to the crowd*) These men are causing trouble in our city.

**Crowd:** Really?

**Accuser 2:** They are bad for business!

**Accuser 1:** They will destroy our families!

**Crowd:** *(to Paul & Silas)* Go Away! Go Away!

**Accuser 2:** Let’s teach them a lesson first! *(Accusers start hitting Paul & Silas)*

**Crowd:** *(cheer)* Hit them! Hit them! Hit them hard!

**Judge:** (*breaking through the crowd*) Wait! I am the judge of this city. I will decide what to do with these trouble makers.

**Accuser 1:** We don’t want them in our city!

**Accuser 2:** They deserve to die.

**Crowd:** Yes, Yes, Yes!

**Paul:** Wait! Wait, please! We serve the one true God of Heaven.

**Silas:** We only do what God commands.

**Judge:** If this is so, I command you both to be beaten and sent to jail.

(*Judge and Girl exit stage*)

*(Accusers and Crowd starts to beat up Paul & Silas. After 5 secs Jailor enters, breaks through the crowd*)

**Jailer:** Stop! I am the jailer. I have come to take the men to jail. *(puts hand-cuffs on Paul & Silas*)

(*Everyone walks off stage*)

Scene 2 – a jail

*(Prisoners 1 & 2 sit in the front; all prisoners looking sad)*

**Jailer:** *(bring Paul & Silas to jail; treat them roughly)* You will stay here for a long time! *(put Paul & Silas in stocks*)

**Paul:** Sir, we are not afraid.

**Silas:** God always takes care of us.

**Jailer:** I don’t think your God can save you this time. (*Jailer walks off stage*)

**Prisoner 1:** Wow, you guys look pretty beat up.

**Prisoner 2:** You must have done something real bad.

**Prisoners:** Terrible crimes, we bet! *(smirk on faces)*

**Paul:** No, no crime. *(Prisoners stop laughing)* Only that we love God and His son Jesus Christ.

**Silas:** And we want to tell everybody about Jesus.

**Paul:** Jesus saves everyone from their sins.

**Prisoner 1:** Well, I have never heard about this Jesus.

**Prisoner 2:** If He’s so great, why are you here?

**Prisoners:** *(mocking)* Yes, tell us, tell us! Ha ha ha!

**Paul & Silas:** (*With smile on their faces, begin to sing or hum loudly*)

**Prisoner 1:** (*to prisoner 2*) They sound pretty good.

**Prisoner 2:** (*to prisoner 1*) They don’t seem to be worried at all.

(*Prisoners quietly listening*)

**Narrator 5:** While Paul and Silas were singing, something amazing happened.

**Narrator 1:** The time was midnight.

**Narrator 2:** A powerful earthquake hit the town. (*everyone shakes*)

**Narrator 3:** Chains were broken and stocks came apart.

**Narrator 4:** Prisoners were set free!

**Narrator 5:** Then something even more amazing happened.

**Narrator 1:** The prisoners did NOT run away.

**Narrator 2:** They all stayed to listen to Paul and Silas talking about God, and His son Jesus.

**Jailer:** (r*unning on to stage, with lantern*) Oh no! Everyone must have escaped!

**Narrator 3:** The jailer knew he had only one way out.

**Jailer:** I have no choice but to kill myself! *(take out his sword)*

**Paul:** Wait! We are all here.

**Prisoner 1:** I’m here!

**Prisoner 2:** Me too, here!

**Silas:** No one has run away.

**Jailer:** This is amazing! *(to Paul and Silas)* Please come to my house and meet my family.

**Paul:** We will be very happy to do that. (*everyone goes off stage*)

Scene 3 – a house

*(Jailer, his wife and children, Paul and Silas take positions on stage)*

**Narrator 4:** The jailer and his wife, first of all, took care of Paul’s and Silas’s wounds.

**Paul:** Thank you for taking care of our wounds.

**Jailer’s wife:** *(smiling)* We are happy we can do it.

**Silas:** May God’s blessing be upon this house.

**Jailer:** We want to hear more about Jesus.

**Jailer’s wife:** Yes, please tell us. *(children nod with interest*)

**Narrator 5:** Paul and Silas spent all night telling the family about God. (*Paul & Silas pretend to tell stories, while the family listen intently*)

**Narrator 1:** The jailer and his family believed in Jesus.

**Jailer’s family:** *(to Paul and Silas)* We accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

**Narrator 2:** So Paul, Silas, the Jailer and his family, all knelt down to ask God into their lives. (*everyone on their knees)*

**Silas:** *(act as praying)* Amen. *(everybody get up)*

**Paul:** This has been a most wonderful experience.

**Jailer’s family:** Yes, for our family too.

**Silas:** Thank you so much for your kindness.

**Jailer:** You two have brought blessings to my family.

**Silas:** May our Lord Jesus bless you and keep you.

**Paul:** Now we must be on our way. *(Paul and Silas walk out of stage, jailer and family wave)*

**Narrator 3:** Paul and Silas continued their travels far and wide.

**Narrator 4:** They told people everywhere about Jesus.

**Narrator 5:** But they never forgot that night when they sang in prison.

**CHORAL SPEAKING** *(all cast members come on stage, speak together)*

That night in prison a strange thing happened

An earthquake struck the doors were opened

But Paul and Silas sang and prayed

The chains fell down but everyone stayed

The Jailer cried “my end is near!”

The prisoners said “we are all here!”

If you had seen it you’d be amazed

The message was received God’s named was praised**.**

**THE END**