

# Endure With Joy!

**Instructions:** Do this activity in a quiet place. As you read the scriptures, imagine that you are actually watching the events. Picture the scene. Hear the voices. Feel the emotions of the characters. Let the account come to life.

**Main characters:** The apostle Paul, Silas, a servant girl, her masters, and a jailer

**Summary:** Paul and Silas are jailed for preaching; then an earthquake frees them.

## 1 THINK ABOUT THE SCENE.—READ ACTS 16:16-40.

What facial expressions do you “see” on the masters of the servant girl? (*Reread verses 19-22.*)

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on Paul and Silas while in prison? (*Reread verse 25.*)

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Describe the appearance and sound of the “great earthquake,” as you imagine it. (*Reread verses 26, 27.*)

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What tone of voice do you detect as the apostle Paul speaks to the jailer in verses 28-31?

## 2 DIG DEEPER.

Was the earthquake simply a natural event? Why, or why not? (Clue: Read Acts 4:31; 5:19; 12:7.)

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Why might the jailer have been surprised that Paul and Silas treated him so kindly? (*Reread Acts 16:23, 24.*)

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How did the persecution of Paul and Silas help them to preach to more people? (Clue: *Reread verses 25 and 33.*)

**3** APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED.

Write down what you learned about . . .  
How to endure suffering.

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The benefits of endurance. (Read James 1:2-4.)

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**4** ASK YOURSELF.

When do I especially need endurance?

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While I endure suffering, how can I imitate Paul  
in the way I treat other people?

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What lesson from this account is most important  
to me, and why?

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**Suggestion:** Imagine that you are the jailer.  
Write a description of the events in this account  
from his perspective. Include the jailer's feelings  
as he locks up Paul and Silas, witnesses the  
earthquake, and is finally baptized with his  
family.

