



Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!
Philippians 4:4 (NIV)

Tough Times for Paul

Acts 9

“Jesus is the Messiah!” said Paul.

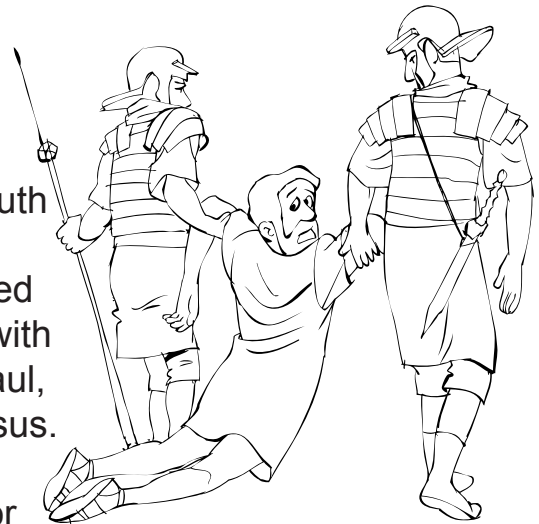
Before, Paul hated the Christians. He thought they were not following God so he hurt them and threw them into jail. When God showed Paul the truth everything was different and he followed Jesus.

Paul traveled to tell others about Jesus. He walked long roads, sailed stormy seas and shared Jesus with everyone who would listen. It was a hard life for Paul, but he was full of joy because he was following Jesus.

During Paul’s travels, sometimes the people mistreated him, threw rocks at him, put him in jail or whipped him. One time, Paul had to escape from a city in a basket! He even got bit by a poisonous snake, but God protected Paul. He kept following God with joy in his heart.

Once, Paul and his friend, Silas, were in jail because they had been preaching about Jesus. They were hurting and sore, but they began to sing praises to God. Suddenly, the jail began to shake! It was an earthquake! All the doors opened and their chains fell off, but they stayed there. The jailer saw all that and wanted to be saved. Paul taught him about Jesus and the jailer and his family were baptized!

Today there are still many people who are in jail or have terrible things happen to them because they choose to follow Jesus. We can pray for them to have faith and joy like Paul.

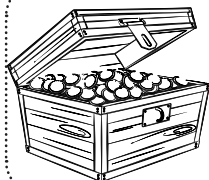


What did we discover?

- 1) Paul didn’t always follow _____.
PETER JESUS MOSES
- 2) When Paul followed Jesus, his life was hard, but full of _____.
JOY SADNESS PEOPLE
- 3) Paul followed Jesus even when things were _____.
SIMPLE HARD EASY
- 4) Paul and Silas praised God in the jail and the jailer chose to follow _____.
HIS WORK JESUS CHRIST PAUL



How can I be joyful even when things are hard?



**My joy comes
from Jesus.**

Praising isn’t just something
to do at church meetings.



**Father God,
I praise You
for all that You
have done!**

