

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

**2ND GRADE**

**TEACHER'S PACKET**

**SUNDAY MORNING**

Study 9

*The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace*



# The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month's books, you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** This lesson will show how the Gospel gives us peace and makes us ready to share that peace with others.

## Key Verses

Ephesians 6:15; Acts 16:23-34—Main Teaching Passage  
Romans 10:13-15

## Books to Memorize

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, **Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 King**

## Hook

Bring in a few different kind of shoes if you have them. If you don't have shoes to bring in, draw some on the board. Try to use different kinds (sneakers, sandals, work boots, etc.) and ask the class which shoes they would wear to the beach. What would they wear to a fancy party? To play sports? Finally, what would they wear in a battle?

While we don't usually think of shoes when we think about soldiers, a soldier's shoes are important. The shoes in the Armor of God are also very important, as we will see today.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

## BOOK

As we continue to study the Armor of God, the third piece of armor we read about in Ephesians 6 is the shoes of the readiness of the Gospel of peace. In Bible times, a soldier's shoes were designed to keep his feet standing. The battlefield was a dangerous place, and there were many things that could cause soldiers to slip. But with shoes, the soldier could remain standing even when the battle was crazy all around him. Here, Paul says that the Gospel does the same thing. When everything around us is crazy, the Gospel (the good news of what Jesus has done for us) enables us to stand.

Paul had experienced this truth in his own life. In Acts 16:23-34, we read of a time when Paul and his friend Silas were put in prison for telling others about Jesus. But while in jail, the Bible tells us something amazing: Paul and Silas were singing praises to God! Then all of a sudden, God sent an earthquake that broke the prisoners' chains and opened the jail, which made it possible for the prisoners to escape. When the prison guard saw what had happened, he was about to take his sword and stab himself, knowing that he would be killed when his masters found out that the prisoners escaped. But none of the prisoners left, and Paul told the guard that they were all still there and he should not kill himself. Paul then shared the Gospel with him, and the guard and his whole family became Christians.

## LOOK

The characters in our story today each faced a major problem. Paul and Silas' problem was that they had been beaten and were now stuck in jail. The guard's problem was that the earthquake broke open the jail and the prisoners could escape, and he knew he'd be in big trouble if they did. Yet while all three faced problems, their responses couldn't have been more different. Paul and Silas were able to worship God in the midst of their trial, while the guard wanted to hurt himself. What made them different? Paul and Silas believed in the Gospel and had that as their sure foundation, while the prison guard did not.

When we face trials and challenges, the Gospel is our sure footing. This is because we know that no matter what happens to us, our hope is not in this world or this life. Our hope is in Christ. Even though they were in jail, Paul and Silas knew that Jesus had forgiven their sins, and that couldn't be taken away from them. They may suffer in this life, but they knew that they had eternity with Christ waiting for them in the next life. The guard did not have this hope. If the prisoners escaped, it would all be

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

## LOOK (Continued)

over for him. He would lose his life, and he did not have the hope Paul and Silas had of spending eternity with Jesus. When we as Christians face trials, we should remember the truth of the Gospel and use that hope to give us peace.

In Romans 10:13-15, we see that the Gospel not only gives us peace in our own trials, but enables us to share that peace with others. At first, the prison guard did not have peace because his faith was not in Christ, so when his circumstances were bad, he went into despair. But in verse 13, Paul says that whoever calls on the Lord will be saved. The soldier did this, and as a result he had peace with God. He was no longer afraid of his circumstances because he knew his eternity was secure. And for Paul and Silas, we read in verses 14-15 that there was also a blessing in giving this peace to others by preaching the Gospel. In sharing the Gospel with the guard, they were able to give him the peace of God.

In life, all of us face difficult circumstances. But only those whose feet are covered in the readiness of the Gospel of peace are able to endure those trials and give hope to others in their trials. When you go through difficult circumstances, do you place your hope in Jesus and receive your peace from the Gospel? When you see others who are struggling, do you share the Gospel with them? That is what it means to wear the shoes of the readiness of the Gospel of peace. If you don't have this peace with God because you've never put your faith in Christ, the good news is that like the prison guard, you can call upon the Name of the Lord and be saved.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

## TOOK

Give a chance for anyone who has never done so to call upon the Name of the Lord, believe the Gospel of peace, and be saved.

Review the lesson by asking the class what it means to wear the shoes of the Gospel of peace. How does the Gospel give us peace? How can we give that peace to others?

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for giving us peace in the Gospel. Ask Him to help us trust in the Gospel during hard times and share this peace with others.

**Parent Question:** What is the Gospel and how does it give us peace?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Ephesians 6:15 and Acts 16:23-34 by David Guzik

5. ([Eph 6:15](#)) The spiritual armor to *have*.

**And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

d. **Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace:** The **preparation of the gospel** is represented as the protective shoes (or sandals) worn by Roman soldiers. No one can fight effectively or effectively go about his business without this equipment.

i. **Preparation** is a word meaning “a prepared foundation.” The gospel provides the footing for everything we do. However powerful the rest of your body is, if you are wounded in your feet you are easy prey for the enemy.

ii. On the shoes: “Josephus described them as ‘shoes thickly studded with sharp nails’... so as to ensure a good grip. The military successes both of Alexander the Great and of Julius Caesar were due in large measure to their armies’ being well shod and thus able to undertake long marches at incredible speed over rough terrain.” (Wood)

iii. Paul had [Isaiah 52:7](#) in mind when he referred to **having shod your feet**: *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*

iv. The idea of **preparation** is really *readiness*. We must be mobile, flexible, and ready with the truth. This is a place to *have* in the Christian life, to live in constant readiness and flexibility.

### Acts 16:23-34

4. ([Act 16:23-24](#)) Paul and Silas are arrested, beaten, and imprisoned.

**And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.**

d. **When they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison:** After being severely beaten, Paul and Silas were imprisoned in maximum-security conditions (**commanding the jailer to keep them securely...the inner prison...fastened their feet in the stocks**).

i. Jewish legal tradition gave a maximum number of blows that could be delivered when beating a person, but the Romans had no such limit. We simply know Paul and Silas were severely beaten. Paul later wrote of his life: *In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.* ([2 Corinthians 11:23](#))

ii. After such a bad beating, they were put in uncomfortable conditions (**fastened their feet in the stocks**). “These stocks had more than two holes for legs, which could thus be forced apart in a such a way as to cause the utmost discomfort and cramping pain.” (Bruce)

iii. Even in their pain, God was not far from Paul and Silas. Tertullian said, “The legs feel nothing in the stocks when the heart is in heaven.”

5. ([Act 16:25-32](#)) Paul and Silas sing in prison.

**But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.**

a. **But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God:** Though they were arrested, beaten, and imprisoned for doing good, Paul and Silas were filled with joy, and sang praises to God. It seemed as if nothing would make them stop praising God.

i. Anyone can be happy in pleasant circumstances, but real joy comes only from within, and is a gift available to Christians at all times. “Instead of cursing men, they blessed God.” (Stott)

b. **And the prisoners were listening to them:** What a strange sound this was to the other **prisoners**! Prayers and praises unto God at midnight, in the midst of a brutal prison. Those prison walls had probably never heard such a sound.

6. ([Act 16:26-29](#)) The great earthquake and its result.

**Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.” Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.**

a. **Suddenly there was a great earthquake:** This earthquake was clearly supernatural. This was not only because of its timing and location, but also in the way that **all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed**.

b. **The keeper of the prison...was about to kill himself:** The jailer did this for a good reason. Under Roman law and custom, guards who allowed their prisoners to escape received the penalty of their escaped prisoners. Knowing this, **Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”** He assured the jailer that no one had escaped.

i. It would have been easy for Paul and Silas to escape thinking God provided another miraculous jailbreak. But to them, the lives of others were more important than their own personal freedom and comfort.

ii. In not escaping, they showed tremendous discernment. The *circumstances* said, “escape.” But love said, “Stay for the sake of this one soul.” They were not guided merely by circumstances, but by what love compelled.

c. **Ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas:** This hardened keeper of the prison **fell down trembling**. This was as dramatic as it sounds. This man was more affected by the love and grace demonstrated by Paul and Silas than by the earthquake. As well, this may have even been the same guard who beat them a few hours earlier.

7. ([Act 16:30-32](#)) The conversion of the Philippian jailer.

**And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.**



a. **Sirs, what must I do be saved?** The jailer was so impressed by Paul and Silas – by the love they showed to him, and from their ability to take joy even in misery – that he instantly wanted the kind of life that Paul and Silas have.

i. This is how God wants our lives to be: Natural magnets drawing people to Him. Our Christianity should make others want what we have with God.

b. **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved:** Paul's answer to the keeper of the prison is a classic statement of the essence of the gospel. This is salvation by grace alone, received by faith alone.

i. Some have worried that Paul's invitation to salvation here is *too* easy, and would promote a too-easy faith or a cheap grace. Others refuse to preach repentance, claiming that this text says that it is not necessary.

ii. Paul never specifically called the keeper of the prison to repent because *he was already repenting*. We see the humble repentance of the jailer in that he *fell down trembling*, in the full idea of the word **believe** (*pistis*, which means to trust in, rely on, and cling to), and in the command to believe on the **Lord** Jesus Christ).

iii. For the Philippian jailer, Paul did not direct him to counseling. He did not give him a lecture on theology. He did not discuss the spiritual terminology of the jailer. He did not talk about sacraments or even churches. He pointed this obviously repentant man to faith in Jesus Christ.

iv. There was an old chaplain general of the British Army – Bishop John Taylor Smith – who used a unique test on candidates for the chaplaincy. He asked them to say how they would speak to a man injured in battle, who had three minutes to live, how to be saved and come to peace with God. If they couldn't do it within three minutes, they weren't fit for the chaplain's service. Paul would be qualified.

c. **You and your household:** This seems to be a specific promise for that Philippian jailer. Under inspiration by the Holy Spirit, Paul told the keeper of the prison that his household would trust Jesus just as he did.

i. This was a promise made specifically to the keeper of the prison. But it is a promise that the Holy Spirit may well make alive to us, helping us to trust Him for the salvation of our families.

ii. However, the jailer's household was not saved merely because he was; Paul came and **spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house**. They were all saved because they all trusted the word of God and the Jesus revealed to us through the word.

8. ([Act 16:33-34](#)) The Philippian jailer serves Paul and Silas.

**And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.**

a. **And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes:** The same jailer who had punished them now cared for Paul and Silas, caring for their wounds and **he set food before them**. This shows how repentant he was and how he followed the example of love shown by Paul and Silas.

b. **And immediately he and all his family were baptized:** The jailer and his family saw no reason to delay baptism; they were baptized that very night, and all this began around midnight ([Acts 16:25](#)).

c. **And he rejoiced:** This man was carried from suicidal fear to abounding joy in just a few minutes. The Holy Spirit used the courageous praise of Paul and Silas in their terrible adversity.