

WeekEnders

Paul and Philippians



Breaking the Chains

WeekEnders are a simple and small guide for families to participate in worship together while they might be away from St. John's on Sunday. Families are invited to sing, pray, read and share with each other. One family member may lead the entire time or it is encouraged for different members to take turns reading, asking questions and leading. The WeekEnders can be done in stages throughout a weekend. For example: You may "pause" after a time of sharing on Friday night and then "continue" on Sunday morning. Many blessings as you worship our Lord together!

Read: Psalm 107:1-9, 13-16

A psalm of Thanksgiving during many troubles

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say this-- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, ³ those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

⁴ Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle.

⁵ They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.

⁶ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

⁷ He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

⁸ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, ⁹ for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

¹³ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains.

¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, ¹⁶ for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.

Offer your own prayer or the suggested: *Lord God, you are great and your provision is amazing. As we gather this morning, help us to see you. Help us to worship you. May we allow you to break our chains and the gates in our hearts. Amen*

Share with each other: What is a time or a situation where God provided for you in a way that was unexpected or amazing?

Sing: Our God – you can always find the songs on YouTube and sing along

Our God

Words and Music by
Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin,
Chris Tomlin and Jesse Reeves

1 Wa - ter You turned in - to wine, o - pened the eyes of the blind;
There's no one like You, none like You.

2 In - to the dark - ness You shine, out of the ash - es, we rise;
There's no one like You, none like You.

Our God is great - er, our God is strong - er;
God, You are high - er than an - y oth - er. Our God is heal - er,
awe - some in pow - er, our ³ God, our ³ God.

And if our God is for us then who could ev - er stop us,
and if our God is with us then what could stand a - gainst?
And if our God is for us then who could ev - er stop us,
and if our God is with us then what could stand a - gainst?
What could stand a - gainst?

Read: Acts 16:11-34

This is the story of how Paul came to begin the church in Philippi.

Acts 16:11-34 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹ When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. ²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself

because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-- you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God-- he and his whole family.

Sharing: Paul and Silas, along with Timothy, traveled to Philippi for the first time and shared the gospel with Lydia. Then because they cast out an evil spirit, they were beaten and jailed. Amazing things happened from there on out.

- What is an amazing thing you have witnessed God do?
- How do Paul and Silas respond when facing difficult trials, like being in jail held in stocks?
- Lydia and the jailer both shared the good news with their entire families. As you are together as a family, how can you share the good news with each other? Are there other family members who need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ?

Sing: Sanctuary

Sanctuary

Words and Music by
John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true; With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You.

Read: Philippians 1:1-14

Philippians 1:1-14 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: ² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God.

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

Sharing: What are some thoughts or insights you get when reading this scripture? What jumps out to you? You may need to read it again.

- What do we learn about Paul's prayer life?
- What does he pray for the Philippians and for us?
- Knowing that Paul endured chains for the gospel (to see how much more he really endured see 2 Cor. 11:23-33), does that give you desire or courage to share more?
- How does this Word of God challenge your life?

Pray: One family member or all might participate in a time of prayer lifting up what was shared. Example: *Lord, help me to face my fears and be courageous for what is right. Amen.*

Offertory: What is something you would like to offer to the Lord this weekend? What can you give?

Closing Song: The Solid Rock

404 The Solid Rock

A wise man . . . built his house on the rock. Matt. 7:24

1. My hope is built on noth-ing less Than Je-sus' blood and right-eous-ness;
2. When dark-ness veils His love-ly face, I rest on His un - chang-ing grace;
3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood Sup - port me in thewhelm-ing flood;
4. When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found,

I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, But whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
In ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale My an-chor holds with - in the veil.
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
Dressed in His right - eous - ness a - lone, Fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.

Refrain
On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand - All oth - er ground is
sink - ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

TEXT: Edward Mote
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury
Alternate tune: MELITA at No. 402

SOLID ROCK
L.M. with Refrain

WeekEnders - families worshipping together

Check out more WeekEnders each month as they become available.

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Benediction: (One family member may say this to all the others.)
We have worshipped together. We have prayed together, read the Word together, lifted our voices in song together, and shared with each other. Now may we go living for Jesus as a family by his grace, mercy and peace. Amen.