

NOTE TO PARENTS from Ps Luke Aiasecca

Thank you for the privilege of ministering to your family through Kidmania Online. Today's Kidmania Online episode was **The POWER of PRAISE!**

This parent info sheet can be used by you at home to support your Kidmania experience WITH your children and help them to get the most out of it.

The 'main ideas' section of this parent info sheet has been designed especially for you to enter into meaningful discussion with your children. This week the questions build one on another.

To help your children really share what is in their hearts and minds with you, and so YOU can actively build faith and wisdom into them, when it comes to the 'Ask' points, take care to not rush them... give them time to think and respond and really show them you are listening and that you understand.

We are here to support you! If you have any questions you would like to discuss please contact your location Kidmania co-ordinator or email me at luke.aiasecca@enjoy.church

God bless you!



Family Ice Breaker - The Power of Praise!

This is a fun way to introduce what you will be talking about as a family.

Today we watched as Gabriel tried to **break out of some pretend shackles** (cloth tape). We asked him to praise God and try again, and he did better. Having a joyful attitude and putting his trust in God to help him; he was able to break free.

You might like to try this at home. You could do as we did and set a difficult task and all try to do it. Then, see if you do better and it is more enjoyable, after or while praising God.

We also heard from a Kidmania kid, Olivia, about **what Praising God means to her**. She told us how she feels when she praises God. **You might like to talk about this at home.**

Whatever you do, have fun!



Main Scripture today - Acts 16:16-36 - Paul and Silas and the Power of Praise

Scripture Memory Verses - to read and memorise at meal times

[use any version you like; we have used a combination of versions/translations/paraphrases to help your child best understand the meaning of the passages and apply it to their lives NOW]

Psalm 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 71:15

My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and of Your deeds of salvation all day long, for their number is more than I know.

Hebrews 13:15

Through Jesus, therefore, let us at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name.

Revelation 4:8

And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes all over and within (underneath their wings); and day and night they never stop saying, 'Holy, holy holy is the LORD God, The Almighty, the all powerful, the ruler of all, Who was and is and Who is to come, the unchanging, eternal God.'

The Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Discussion introduction:

Ask: Do you remember what Ps Luke was doing at the start of THE WORD?

If YES, ask: What was he doing?

Say: Yes, Ps Luke was praying in his room.

Ask: Do you remember what he was praying?

If YES, ask: What was he praying?

Say: Yes, Ps Luke was praying a prayer of thankfulness. He was thanking God for all the people in his life, for Jesus, for Kidmania, and that everything that day was going his way, and nothing bad had happened. Ps Luke was praising God.

Ask: Wouldn't it be great if every day we could pray that prayer?

Say: It is so easy to joyfully praise God when we feel like everything is going our way.

Ask: Do you find it easy to joyfully praise God when you feel like everything is going your way and everything is going right?

Ask: When things are not going our way, and it looks like everything is going wrong, is it easy to joyfully praise God?

Ask: Do you say, 'Thank you Lord, I praise you that everything is going wrong!'

Say: Not many people do. But there were two people we heard about in the Bible who praised God with singing even while it looked like everything was going wrong and everything was unfair.

Ask: Do you remember who they were?

Say: The Apostle Paul, and Silas. We can read that true story, which was written down by a man named Luke, together.

Unpacking Scripture: Acts 16:16-18

Say: In Acts 16:16-18 it says: **It happened that as we were on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination (that is, a demonic spirit claiming to foretell the future and discover hidden knowledge), and she brought her owners a good profit by fortune-telling. She followed after Paul and us and kept screaming and shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are proclaiming to you the way of salvation!" She continued doing this for several days. Then Paul, being greatly annoyed and worn out, turned and said to the spirit (inside her), "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ (as His representative) to come out of her!" And it came out of her at that very moment.**

Ask: Were Paul and Silas having a very good day or a very bad day? [mostly good, it started off well but there was an annoying woman, but then there was a miracle of deliverance so it was good.]

Ask: What had happened? [Paul and Silas were preaching, and a woman kept calling out. She was annoying Paul. Paul prayed for the woman and she was delivered of the evil spirit. That's good.]

Say: Paul and Silas were preaching the good news about Jesus, and this woman was following them around letting people know that they were servants of the Most High God who were telling people how to be saved.

Ask: So, why was Paul annoyed with her?

Say: Paul was not annoyed with her; he was annoyed with the evil spirit in her that was controlling her. She was telling the truth about them but it was only a half truth, and not helpful. Because of her strange behavior, she was taking attention away from their preaching, making it harder for them to preach, and it was making the good thing they were doing look strange instead of good. Paul could have told her off but instead he did a very kind thing for her and cast the evil spirit out of her. She was now free to be herself - the woman God made her to be!

Ask: So, is this a good day? [Yes!] Is it easy to praise God about this? [Yes!]



...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Say: Let's see what happens next...

Say: In Acts 16:19-24 it says: **But when her owners saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities in the market place (where trials were held), and when they had brought them before the chief magistrates, they said, "These men, who are Jews, are throwing our city into confusion and causing trouble. They are publicly teaching customs which are unlawful for us, as Romans, to accept or observe." The crowd also joined in the attack against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and ordered that Paul and Silas be beaten with rods. After striking them many times with the rods, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely. He, having received such a strict command, threw them into the inner prison (the dungeon) and fastened their feet in the stocks in an agonizing position.**

Ask: Were Paul and Silas having a very good day or a very bad day? [it started off well but went very badly]

Ask: What had happened? [they were preaching, they healed a woman by delivering/freeing her of an evil spirit and this was good but it annoyed her masters who could not use her to make money anymore, so they caused everyone in the crowd to turn against them and they had Paul and Silas arrested and thrown into prison where they were beaten up and then put in a very uncomfortable and painful position]

Ask: Did they deserve for this to happen to them? [No!]

Ask: How do you think you would have reacted to this?

Say: I think I would have been very upset, and been asking God why He was allowing this to happen to me while I was serving Him. I think I might have been angry about it too.

Say: Let's see how Paul and Silas went...

Scripture: Acts 16:25-26

Say: In Acts 16:25-26 it says: **But about midnight when Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; suddenly there was a great earthquake, so powerful that the very foundations of the prison were shaken and at once all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.**

Ask: What are we told Paul and Silas were doing at about midnight? [praying and singing hymns of praise to God]

Ask: Were they praising God by saying the right things sadly? How were they praising God?

Say: They were praising God joyfully. They had joy. They were happy, and not worried.

Ask: Who was listening to them? [the other prisoners who were probably there for actually doing bad things, and guards]

Ask: But weren't Paul and Silas having a very bad day? Weren't they hurt and bleeding, and being treated unfairly? [Yes, they were!]

Ask: What do you think the other prisoners would have been thinking about them being so happy while this bad stuff was happening to them? [that they are crazy, or that they are very good, or that their God must really be real if they can be treated like that and still worship their God]

Ask: What happened next? [there was an earthquake and all the doors opened and all the chains fell off all the prisoners so that they could escape]

Say: I think that Paul and Silas praising God was such a great testimony/show of God's goodness that the other prisoners began to believe in their hearts all the good things about God that were being sung. Faith rose. And that faith invited a miracle, even while they did not ask for it. Paul and Silas did not need their situation to change before they praised God, they praised God ALL the time, and trusted Him...and in this particular situation God chose to change what was happening in a powerful way.

Ask: Do you think anyone in the prison would have NOT known that they were Christians? [No! Everyone would have known that they were Christians - that they were followers of Jesus and they loved and trusted God]



...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Ask: What would you have done if you could suddenly escape prison, because God had sent an earthquake? [*escaped, run away, hidden, helped other prisoners escape, tried to stop the very bad and dangerous prisoners escaping, cheered and high fived another prisoner, etc...*]

Say: I would want to leave the prison and go home, but Paul and Silas did not do that, did they? Let's see what they did..

Scripture: Acts 16:27-36

Say: In Acts 16:27-36 it says: **When the jailer, shaken out of sleep, saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, saying, "Do not hurt yourself, we are all here!" Then the jailer called for torches and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and after he brought them out of the inner prison, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior and entrust yourself to Him and you will be saved, you and your household (if they also believe)." And they spoke the word of the Lord concerning eternal salvation through faith in Christ to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their bloody wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. Then he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, since he had believed in God with his entire family (accepting with joy what had been made known to them about the Christ). Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their officers, saying, "Release those men." And the jailer repeated the words to Paul, saying, "The chief magistrates have sent word to release you; so come out now and go in peace."**

Ask: Why didn't Paul and Silas and the other prisoners escape? Why did they stay?

Say: Paul and Silas knew that if they escaped then the jailer and guards would be punished very badly, and then killed, for losing all the prisoners. The jailer, and the guards, were very afraid. But the prisoners were all full of faith and love in that moment, and so they stayed. That's why Paul called out to them to not harm themselves.

Ask: Isn't that so kind?

Say: Because of all that the jailer and the guards had heard (singing), and because all they had experienced (in the miracle of the powerful earthquake), and because of the kindness of their prisoners (in protecting them by staying instead of getting their freedom while they could) they were convinced of both the power and the goodness of God, and believed in Him.

Say: The jailer, and the guards, wanted to become like the believers, and even asked them how. So then, a special kind of church service started in the prison and in nice part of the prison that was where the jailer and his family lived. People cared for each other's needs, they ate together, the word of God was preached, people raised their hands to accept Jesus, and there was a baptism. Everyone was happy and praising God.

Ask: What happened next? [*the magistrate/judge sent word for them to be released and they were released.*]

Say: God always had a plan to release them the next day. God allowed Paul and Silas to be sent to prison, and then sent the earthquake, so that everyone in the prison would be saved.

Ask: Do you think Paul and Silas thought it was worth it, to go through all that, so that so many people could go to Heaven? [*Yes!*]

Ask: Do you think this great thing would have happened if Paul and Silas had not trusted God, and sat complaining, instead of praising God? [*No!*]

Say: No! Because then, all the Christians would be known for is complaining. That's not very good is it? [*No!*]

Ask: Would you want to join a group of complainers who had been accused of being trouble makers? [*No!*]

Ask: Would that give glory to God? [*No!*]



...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

The points to remember!

Say: The example that Paul and Silas set for us is to praise God in all our situations. The more we follow Jesus, the more we will be able to do as they did - to joyfully praise God when:
* things are going well * when things are pretty ordinary, and * even when everything SEEMS to be going wrong. I say SEEMS because when things don't seem to be going our way, we can be tempted to think that God doesn't have a plan to do some good with it. When we continue to have joy in God, and choose to praise Him, He gets bigger and our problems get smaller.

Say: Here are some things we can learn from Paul and Silas:

Say: 1. When bad things happen it doesn't mean God isn't with us; GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.

Say: Paul and Silas were doing the right thing, but they were treated really badly. Being a Christian doesn't mean we won't ever have any troubles. But when things do go wrong, we can choose to think about Jesus, and how much He loves us, and suddenly things won't seem as bad. We can choose to disbelieve the lie that He is not with us and not for us, and instead believe the truth that He is ALWAYS with us, and for us, and will use every hard situation we face for good. Whenever we are praising God, we are more aware that God is with us.

Ask: Can you think of a time in your life when you thought everything was really bad and then it turned out great? [**Share:** Tell your kids about a time in your life where you continued to praise God and your bad situation turned out really well.]

Say: 2. There is POWER in PRAISE.

Say: When we praise God we get God's attention in a special way. He can't help but want to spend time with people who are praising Him. It was Paul and Silas' praise that invited the miracle. They were praising God because they loved and trusted God. They wanted to know God's presence even more than what God could do for them.

Ask: Have you ever noticed how much happier you feel and more able to do things when you have been in praise and worship in Kidmania? [**Share:** Tell your kids about a time in your life when you came into church feeling hopeless about a situation but left church encouraged, even before the situation turned out really well.]

Say: 3. Your PRAISE can be an EXAMPLE to those who don't know Jesus.

Say: When you praise God by living for Him, God will use you to reach others...just as even in prison Paul and Silas were used to reach others. They were unfairly arrested and punished, BUT... because they were praising God in the prison, and because they stayed after the earthquake, many people knew they were different - good different! And it was all because they were Christian...because Jesus was glorified others gave their lives to Jesus.

Ask: Do you want to be different in a good way? [**Share:** Tell your kids about a time someone noticed you were good-different because of Jesus and you were able to help them or lead them to Jesus)]

Life Application:

If YES, say: Let's agree that in every situation we will choose JOY? We will remember this true story, and that will help us to remember to PRAISE God no matter what we are going through, and trust Him, and be a great example to others. Let's help each other remember; will you remind me too, when I forget?

Let's Pray!

Dear Heavenly Father... Thank You for the great example of Paul and Silas, and all the amazing things you did in their life, in the good times and the bad. We thank You that in every situation You have a plan for us and that we can trust You. Help us to remember to praise You always, no matter what is happening in our lives. Help us to be good-different, and a great example to others. ...in Jesus' name, Amen!

