

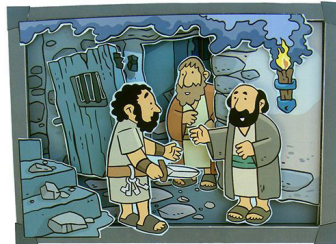
**Happy Mother's Day and Happy Eastertide!** We are still in the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost (May 31) where each Sunday is a celebration of resurrection and NEW LIFE. And we are still staying at home to keep everyone safe but there are still holidays and celebrations and today is a special day to celebrate our mothers! We celebrate the gift of life that our moms gave us. What are a few things that are special about your mom? What is a way that you can make your mom feel special today... and every day? The theme of our lesson today is **Compassion** - Moms can be the best examples of showing compassion.

**What is COMPASSION?:** If someone shows kindness, caring, and a willingness to help others, they're showing compassion. This is a word for a very positive emotion that has to do with being thoughtful and caring. When you have compassion, you're putting yourself in someone else's shoes and really feeling for them.

For the last 2 weeks we've learned that Paul made a big **change** in his life and then made a **commitment** to spread God's message. Paul traveled to many many cities to help new churches and wrote lots of letters that became 13 books in the New Testament of the Bible teaching about how to live like Jesus taught. Now we learn the story of how Paul and Silas showed **compassion** to a jail guard under extraordinary conditions.

**SCRIPTURE:**

"They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." —Acts 16:31



**BIBLE BACKGROUND (Acts 16:11-40):**

Paul and Silas were missionaries for Jesus, traveling all over, walking or riding on donkeys, telling people about Jesus. They told many people that there was one true God and some were very happy to hear and others were angry because they did not want to change their bad ways. One day, while they were in Philippi, they met a girl who had a spirit by which she could predict the future. 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. The owners of this slave girl had Paul and Silas arrested because they could no longer make money off of her fortune-telling. Paul and Silas were stripped and beaten and then thrown into prison. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 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. The guard woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he thought all the prisoners had escaped and he knew he was in trouble and drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The guard called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to know Jesus?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Paul and Silas spoke to the guard about God's love. The guard took them and washed their wounds, then 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.

**ACTIVITIES:**

**Family Discussion:**

1. Why do you think Paul and Silas stayed and didn't run away once the earthquake gave them a way out?
2. Paul and Silas sang hymns and prayed to worship God. In what ways can we worship God?
3. Compassion means to have concern for another's wellbeing. Paul and Silas showed compassion for the guard by staying to help him when they could have just thought of themselves and run away. In what ways can we show compassion to people, our planet and to animals?

**Make a Card for Mom:**

Fold a piece of paper in half. On the front write down the letters of your Mom's first name down the side. For each letter of her name, come up with a word that describes her and write it next to the letter. On the inside draw a picture of you and your Mom and write a special Mother's Day message.

**When did St. Luke's start?**

Paul was so important to the start of so many of the early churches. Ask your parents when they started coming to St. Luke's and why. St. Luke's started in 1983 with just a handful of people who thought we needed a Methodist church in Highlands Ranch. It grew and grew because so many people loved being a part of this special community where they could hear about and experience God's love.

**PRAYER:**

Dear God, Thank you for this special day to celebrate all kinds of mothers. Help them to know how loved they are and how grateful we are for their love. Thank you for stories of compassion and a mother's love to show us how to care for each other.  
 Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together:  
 Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
 Amen