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A Song at Midnight

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His friends to go into all the world and preach the good news of salvation. Paul and Silas were two Christians who obeyed that command. They traveled from city to city telling about Jesus.

In one city, the people became angry at Paul and Silas. The leaders caught them and beat them until blood ran down their backs. Then they took them to jail.

They said to the jailer, "Take these men and make sure they do not escape."

In those days if someone escaped from jail, the jailer was killed. So this jailer wanted to make sure Paul and Silas did not get away. He took them to

a cell deep down in the prison. He made their feet fast in stocks. Then he took the light and locked the door and went off to bed.

Paul and Silas could not sleep. Their backs were raw and bleeding. They could not move. What could they do there in the darkness all night? They did not sit and feel sorry for themselves. They did something else.

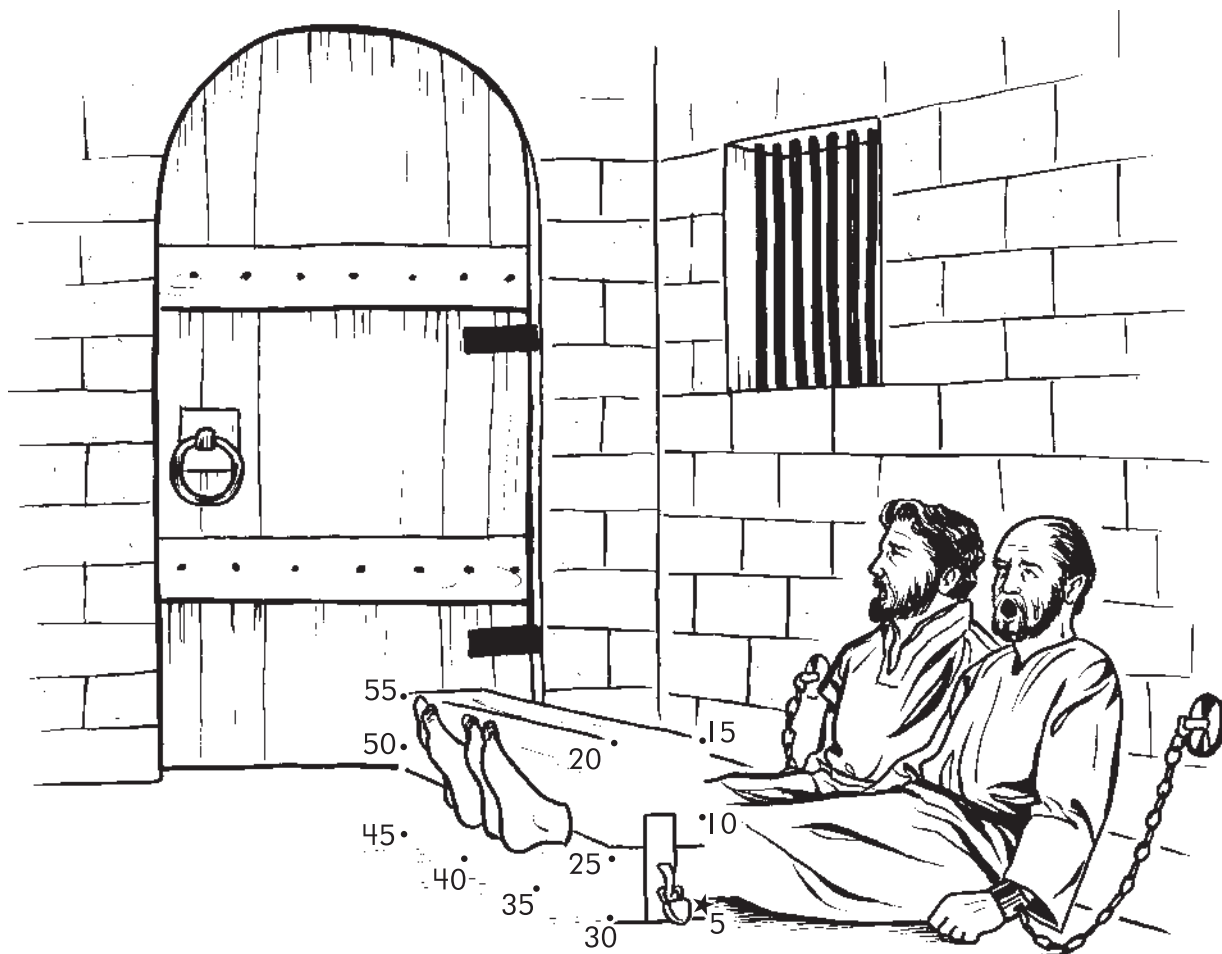
In the middle of the night the other prisoners heard a strange sound. They had never heard that sound in the jail before.

Singing! From the cell deep down in the prison came two men's voices singing praises to God.

Everyone but the jailer heard them. He lay fast asleep in bed.

Follow the directions carefully to finish the picture.

1. Count by fives to do the dot-to-dot.
 2. Paul has a bald head. Color his clothes blue.
 3. Color Silas's clothes brown.
 4. Use a ruler to add a top line to the wall—on both sides of the door and above the window.
 5. Color the door brown.
 6. Color the brick wall gray.
- △ Ask your teacher if you may finish coloring the picture.



At midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God.

Acts 16:25

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Earthquake!

Rumble, rumble, rumble!
Crash! Bang! The prison floor shook. The walls swayed. Doors popped open. Chains fell off. An earthquake rocked the whole prison.

The jailer woke out of his sleep. He saw the prison doors standing open. He felt sure all the prisoners had fled. Now the rulers would kill him because he had let them escape. He pulled out his sword. He meant to kill himself.

Paul shouted, "Stop! Don't hurt yourself. We are all here. No one has run away."

"Bring a light," cried the jailer. He came in and fell at Paul's feet. "What must I do to be saved?"

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved," said Paul. "Your family can be saved too."

The jailer believed and was saved. Then he took Paul and Silas to his house. He washed their sore, bleeding backs. He gave them something to eat.

While the family listened, Paul told them more about Jesus. That night the whole family believed and was saved.

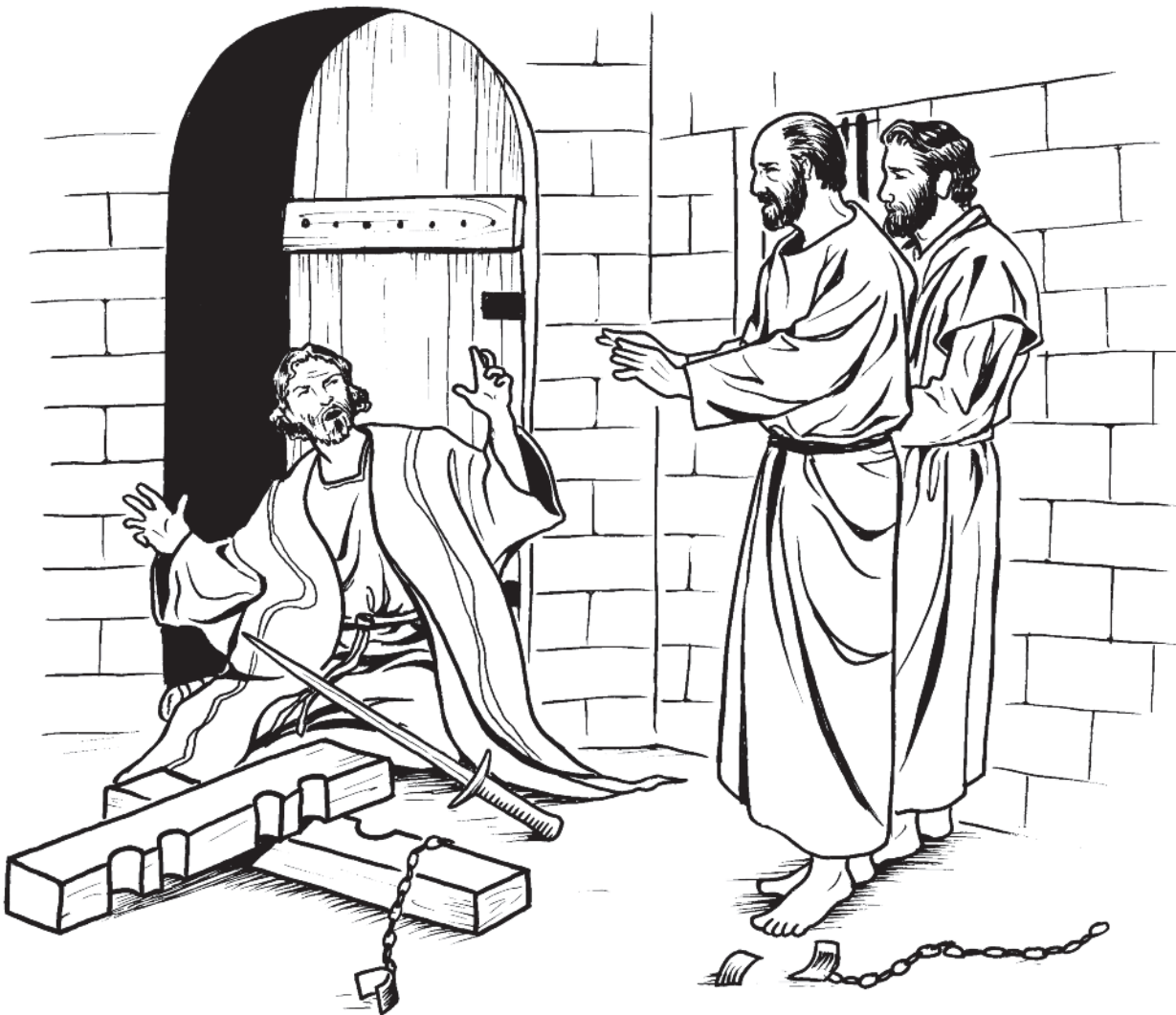
The next day the rulers let Paul and Silas go. The two men went back to their friends and told them how God had gotten them out of prison by sending an earthquake.

What did Paul tell the jailor when he asked what he needed to do to be saved? **Use the code to find the message.**

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Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken.

Acts 16:26

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The Word of an Angel

Everywhere Paul went, he met men who did not believe in Jesus. Those men tried to make Paul stop preaching. But he would not stop.

The time came when some men made up their minds that Paul must die. They took him to a judge and told lies about him. The judge knew they were not telling the truth, but he did not know what to do with Paul.

Then Paul said he wanted a different man to judge him. So they decided that a soldier would take Paul across the sea to another judge.

Paul told them it was not safe to sail across the sea at that time of year. Bad storms often came up. But no one listened to Paul. The soldier

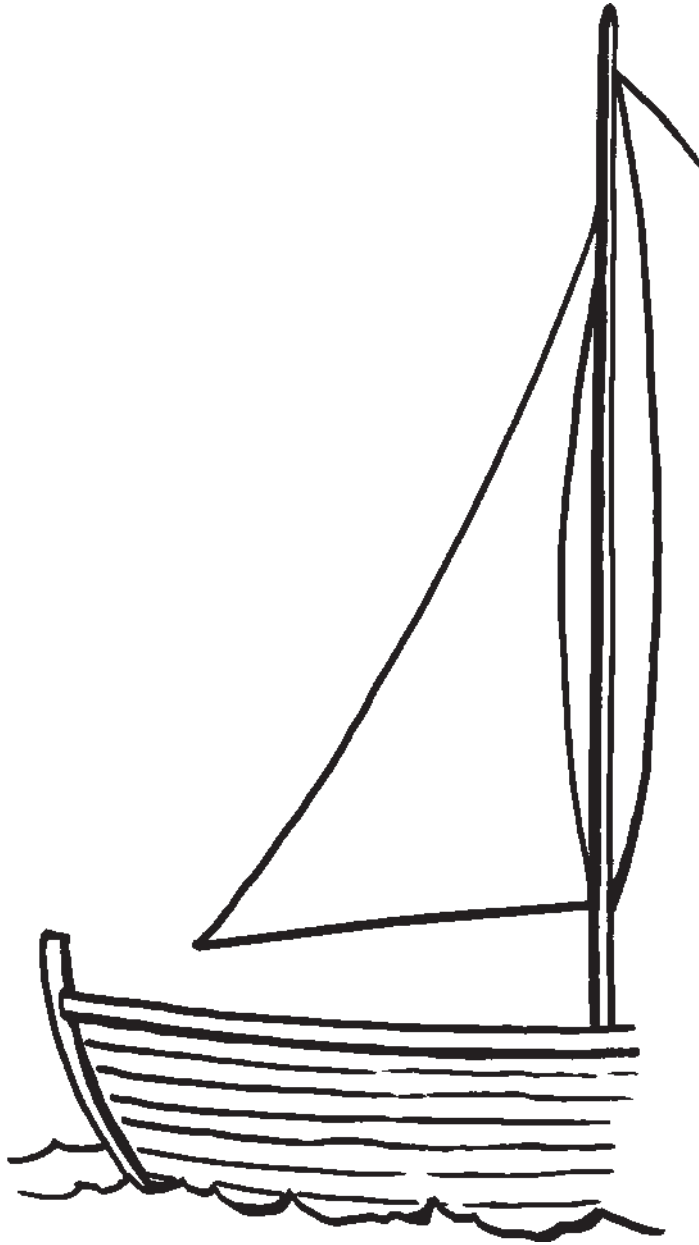
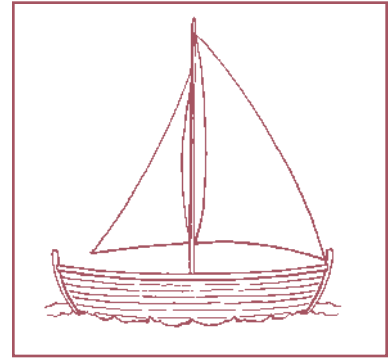
took him on board and they started out.

Sure enough, they ran into a bad storm. Before long the sailors gave up trying to steer the ship. They took down the sails and let the wind blow it wherever it pleased. For many days the wind blew them along until they gave up hope of getting out alive.

One morning Paul said, "Be of good cheer. Last night, my God sent an angel. He told me we will not drown. The ship will wreck. We will land on an island, but all of us will come through alive."

What wonderful news! But had an angel really talked with Paul? Or had he only been dreaming?

Study the model, then draw the other half of the boat and sail. Color it.



And entering into a ship . . . we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia.

Acts 27:2

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Wrecked, But Safe

Paul's words from the angel made everyone feel better, even though the storm still raged. One night the sailors could tell they were getting close to land. Then they began to worry. They could not see how close they were. What if the wind drove the ship onto the shore and smashed it on the rocks?

The sailors dropped four anchors. That held the ship right where it was. Then they waited and wished for morning.

When it began to grow light, they saw an island. Waves crashed on the rocky shore. The sailors knew the ship would break up if it hit those rocks. How could they land?

Then they saw a creek flowing from the land into the

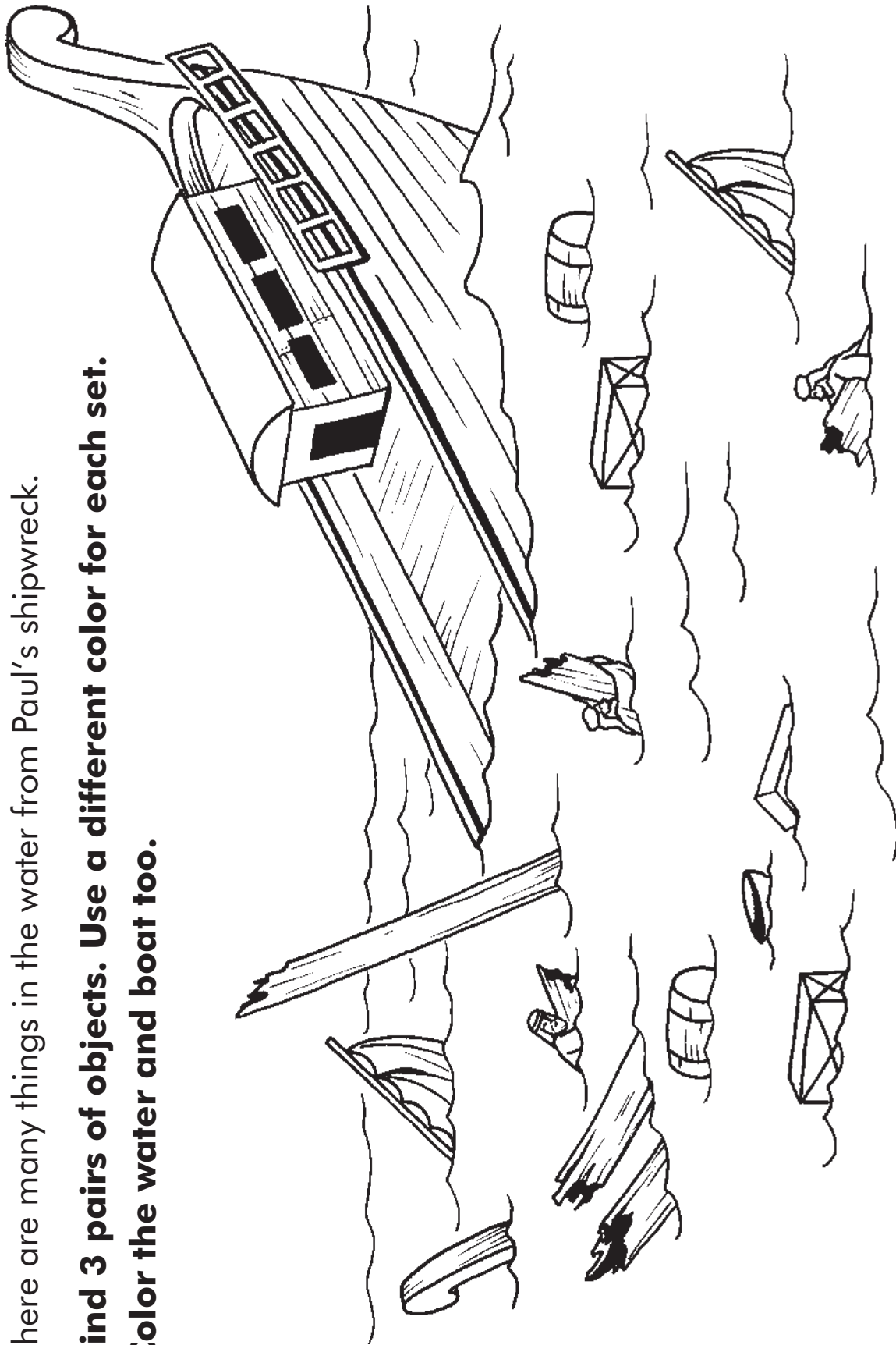
sea. They decided to sail up the creek and try to miss the rocks. That was a good plan, but it did not work. The creek was not deep enough. The front of the ship stuck in the ground. The waves began to break the ship to pieces. It was time to get off.

"If you can swim, jump overboard," shouted the soldier. "The rest of you grab something that will float, and get to land that way." Everyone scrambled to obey.

When the last person pulled himself from the sea, they saw that the angel's word had come true. They stood dripping and shivering in the rain. But Paul's God had brought every one of them safely to shore.

There are many things in the water from Paul's shipwreck.

Find 3 pairs of objects. Use a different color for each set. Color the water and boat too.



They ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast . . . but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

Acts 27:41