

# The Junior Observer

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## Q&A

Where did Paul and Silas travel?

Why were Paul and Silas put in jail?

Read more about it in Acts 16

### A Good News Story

## Paul, Silas Tell Jailer of Jesus

Catholic News Service

**P**aul and Silas traveled from city to city telling people about God and Jesus.

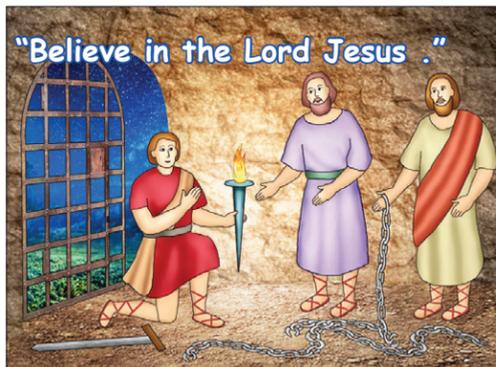
One day, they traveled to the Roman colony of Philippi in Macedonia, in what is now the north of Greece. There they encountered a slave girl who was possessed with an oracular spirit. The spirit made it so she could tell fortunes, and her fortune telling made a lot of money for her masters.

She followed Paul and Silas for several days, shouting, "These people are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation."

Paul finally became annoyed and cast out the spirit in Jesus' name.

When the girl's masters saw that their money-making opportunity was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to the public square before the local authorities.

"These people are Jews and are disturbing our city and are advocat-



(CNS)

### Think about it

Write down what things you would teach people about God and Jesus.

ing customs that are not lawful for us Romans to adopt or practice," they said.

The authorities had Paul and Silas stripped, beaten with rods and thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to guard them securely, so he put them in the innermost cell and secured their feet to a stake.

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to

God as the other prisoners listened.

Suddenly, there was an earthquake so severe that the jail's foundation shook. All the doors flew open, and all the prisoners' chains were pulled loose.

The jailer awoke and saw the open doors. He became distraught and was going to kill himself, thinking that all the prisoners had escaped.

"Do no harm to yourself; we are all here," Paul shouted.

The jailer rushed to where Paul and Silas were and fell down before them, trembling in fear.

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" he asked.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved," they said.

Paul and Silas told the jailer and his family about God and Jesus, and all were baptized. The jailer brought Paul and Silas into his house, provided a meal and rejoiced at having come to faith in God and Jesus.

## Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences about Old Testament prophecies that Jesus fulfilled.

1. Out of \_\_\_\_\_ I called my son. (Matthew 2:14-15)

2. From you shall come a \_\_\_\_\_, who is to shepherd my people Israel. (Matthew 2:6)

3. I will open my mouth in \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 13:34-35)

4. And they took the 30 pieces of silver ... and they paid it out for the \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 27:3-10)

field  
Answers: 1. Egypt; 2. ruler; 3. parables; 4. potter's

## Children Can Be Saints, Too

Two of the youngest saints in the Catholic Church are two of the three Fatima visionaries, Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

This sister and brother were canonized in 2017 by Pope Francis at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima, Portugal.

Pope Francis canonized two shepherd children who saw Mary at Fatima, Portugal. He said the two new saints heeded Mary's call to pray for sinners and trust in the Lord.

With their cousin, Lucia dos Santos, they had monthly visions of Mary at Fatima, Portugal, from May to October 1917.

The first day they saw her was May 13, 1917.

Our Lady told them to keep her visit a secret, but that evening, Jacinta could not restrain herself and told her mother, "Today I saw Our Lady."

Mary asked the shepherd children to promote devotion to her Immaculate Heart and pray the rosary daily.



(CNS photo/Reuters)

St. Jacinta and St. Francisco Marto are pictured in a colorized image with their cousin, Lucia dos Santos (right), in a photo taken around the time of the 1917 apparitions of Mary at Fatima, Portugal. The two young saints died during an influenza epidemic.

Both St. Jacinta and St. Francisco died during an influenza pandemic, like the coronavirus pandemic of today. Francisco was 10 when he died in 1919, and Jacinta died at age 9 in 1920.

The children are the young-

est nonmartyrs to be declared saints by the Catholic Church.

Their cousin, Lucia dos Santos, who became a Carmelite nun, died in 2005 at age 97.

Fatima is among the world's great Marian shrines and pilgrimage sites.