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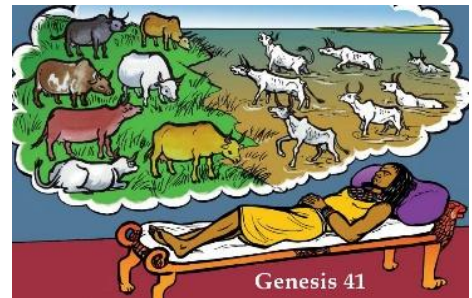


We have just been remembering those terrible events leading up to what turned out to be the joy of Easter. **Jesus** was taken prisoner by soldiers and put on trial before being crucified, an unjust punishment, but he was following God's plan to show us that death is not the end.

Have you ever felt that life is "not fair". Perhaps you were told off for something that you didn't do, or didn't mean to do. Perhaps you accidentally knocked something over. But hopefully everything came right in the end and the punishment (if there was one) was not too hard.

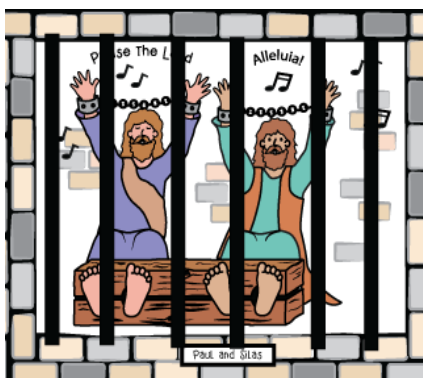
But there are a number of characters in the Bible who were punished unfairly, or because they believed in God. Many were put in prison. One of those was **JOSEPH**. He was imprisoned first by his own brothers because they were jealous that their father gave him that special 'coat of many colours'. They sold him as a slave to some Egyptians.

When he fell out with his masters he was put in prison, until he found favour with Pharaoh when they discovered he could interpret some dreams that Pharaoh was having about some fat and thin cows. Joseph said the 7 fat cows in the dream meant there would be 7 good years and the 7 thin cows that 7 years of famine would follow. So Pharaoh was able to get ready for the famine by storing up grain for the people.



DANIEL was imprisoned because he always worshipped God and not the idols of the king who ruled at that time. This was against the law so the king threw him into a den filled with lions that should have eaten Daniel. Because God was with him, the lions did not eat him up. When the king looked down into the den next day, and saw that Daniel was still alive, he ordered that Daniel should be taken out of the den, and from then on, the king changed and worshiped God as well.

Many of Jesus' followers were later also imprisoned.



Two of them were **Paul and Silas**. They were in Philippi (a former city in present-day Greece), where they were arrested, flogged, and imprisoned, falsely accused of causing a public nuisance. Some business leaders said they were "causing trouble for our city because they are Jews, and are telling others about things which we Romans are not able to accept or follow." At midnight Paul and Silas began to sing hymns of praise to God. There was a rumbling noise and an earthquake caused the prison to shake and the stocks and chains holding them fell off. They were free.

Acts 12 says that **Peter** was put into prison by **King Herod**, but the night before his trial an angel appeared to him, and told him to leave. Peter's chains fell off, and he followed the angel out of prison. The prison doors opened of their own accord, and the angel led Peter into the city.

All those people had some really difficult days, but God was always with them, as he is with us.

Here are a few activities to remind you of two of those Bible characters.

Josephs' Coat Biscuits



You may be able to buy some ready-made person shaped biscuits, or perhaps someone could find you a recipe and help you to make some. When they are baked decorated them with coloured sweets for his coat, eyes and mouth, and cake icing for his hair. Decorate enough to share with the family and make them smile.

Paper Plate Face Mask Find a paper plate big enough to hide your face. Colour the centre yellow or cover with yellow paper.

Cut strips of yellow, orange and red paper, about 20cm long, and bend, don't fold, in half and stick round the outer edge of the plate to form the lions' mane. Draw on the nose and mouth and work out where the eyes will be if you are going to cut them out and wear the mask. Make two holes opposite each other on the edge of the plate, level with the eyes, for the elastic to go through which will hold the mask to your face. If you don't want to cover your face, use a bigger plate, cut the centre out and add the paper mane (see picture right).



Remembering the story of Paul and Silas in prison, find the hidden words in the grid below.

FUTURE
SINGING
PRISON
PAUL
JAILER
SILAS
FEAST
CELL
CHAINS
WORRY
GOD
JESUS

X	R	C	P	B	U	C	U	G	D	T	G	F	L	H
M	E	E	E	W	Q	W	X	K	B	U	Z	Y	E	H
Z	L	M	M	L	B	W	K	Y	F	A	J	X	U	Z
G	I	E	M	X	L	G	M	B	X	I	C	U	B	B
T	A	S	E	L	Q	B	F	F	W	A	H	T	D	R
A	J	T	Z	V	I	P	C	T	O	O	I	A	A	W
D	P	K	M	F	X	C	Y	S	C	W	R	T	Y	P
T	S	D	C	R	E	N	O	S	I	R	P	R	J	D
T	V	A	A	Z	S	R	C	O	S	Q	A	E	V	R
P	W	P	L	N	U	B	U	J	Y	F	J	W	D	Q
V	E	M	I	I	T	C	N	T	E	E	E	Z	W	I
S	O	A	T	V	S	J	M	N	U	S	K	A	U	O
C	H	F	S	I	N	G	I	N	G	F	U	N	S	D
C	P	A	U	L	F	G	O	D	O	S	S	S	W	T
U	V	Z	M	U	L	E	C	B	D	K	P	V	V	S