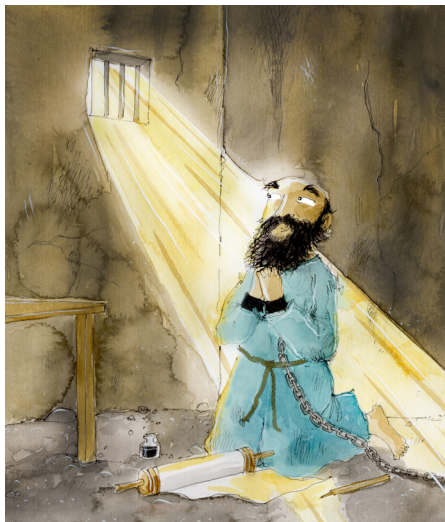


2 Timothy 2:8-15

Unchained!

Paul has been imprisoned and chained for sharing the gospel of Jesus but he encourages Timothy that God's Word is not shackled, and that he should not be ashamed of preaching it.

Read this week's passage:



Write

Keep a journal for a week, making a brief note at the end of each day of what made it easy or difficult to be a Christian that day. For example, did you forget or get too busy to give a few moments each day to prayer? Were you encouraged by listening to some worship music? At the end of the week, look back through your journal and take time to reflect on what you have learned. You could take your thoughts and feelings directly to God in prayer.

WATCH



... the video clip of Paul dictating letters in prison
<https://us-en.superbook.cbn.com/video/paul-fought-good-fight>
Find some examples of locks e.g. bike lock/padlock and talk about what they're for. Can you explain why Paul was put in prison, the conditions there and what he did while he was there?

EXPLORE

Find out about a book of the Bible you know nothing about. Use resources such as the Bible project or a study Bible.

Find more free Roots resources
to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained.' 2 Timothy 2:9

Words are powerful. They can get you in trouble or make you a friend. They can incite violence or bring peace. Words can bring courage, comfort, or challenge. Words can open possibilities or shut-down conversations. Words hit differently depending on who's listening. Have you spoken any impactful words this week?

In Genesis, God spoke the world into existence. In John's Gospel, Jesus is the 'Word made flesh'. God's Word is creative, powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword. The apostle Paul is in prison for his bold words about Jesus, but that hasn't stopped the word going out. He prays, writes letters, and speaks to those who visit him, trusting that his message is from God, and that the power of God's Word cannot be chained. Has God given you important words to say – words that could bring life and hope? What might silence you?

Given the potential power of our words, Paul encourages us to be wise, to speak truthfully and plainly, authentically 'walking our talk'. The more we study the Bible and spend time with Jesus in prayer, the more our words will align with God's Word. We can help others hear God's Word and find life and hope.

First impressions

- Why are these books (from Hereford's medieval library) in chains?
- In what ways can we free the Bible so that everyone can appreciate its message?
- Who can you pray for who is in chains (real or metaphorical)?



Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word.
Help us to spend time reading it
and show us your truth through it,
so we can share it with others.
Give us opportunities to unchain your Word for
others so they can be free in you.
Amen.



... a paper chain. Write on it the names of people currently chained by illness or circumstance and commit to praying for them.