Acts 16 - Paul and Silas in Prison

CHARACTERS: Guard, Paul, Silas, Jailer, Leader, chorus
COSTUMES: Biblical
SETTING: bare stage, cells implied
RUN TIME: 2 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 16
FK reading level: 4.7

At rise: GUARD brings PAUL and SILAS to JAILER

GUARD: By order of the magistrates, these men and to be guarded most carefully.

JAILER: What have they done?

GUARD: The owners of that fortune telling slave claimed they advocated customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice. The magistrates had them beaten severely but that's not the actual reason. The owners were upset this Paul cast out the spirit by which she told fortunes and took away their livelihood.

JAILER: I'll put them in the inner cell and fasten their feet in the stocks.

PAUL and SILAS are imprisoned. ALL others exit. PAUL & SILAS begin singing. Noise of an earthquake, lights off, offstage noises of confusion. PAUL & SILAS stand, unfettered.

GUARD 1: *(shouted from offstage)* The prison doors are damaged and open:

JAILER: *(shouted from offstage)* Don't let any prisoners escape!

GUARD 2: *(shouted from offstage)* All the prisoners are unchained!

JAILER: *(shouted from offstage)* Lights! Bring lights. *Lights up. JAILER enters.*

GUARD: *(shouted from offstage)* All the prisoners have been freed! JAILER draws his sword and places it so he can fall on it and commit suicide.

PAUL: *(shouting)* Don't harm yourself! We are all here! JAILER trembling before Paul and Silas

JAILER: Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

PAUL: Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.

LEADER: They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

ALL: The jailer and his entire household were baptized.

LEADER: He was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God

ALL: He and his whole household.

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