

Q: The earthquake freed all the prisoners from their physical chains but why didn't they escape? What influence did Paul & Silas' demonstrated faith in God (in the midst of horrible circumstances) have on them?

Q: If asked the same question the jailer asked ("what must I do to be saved?") how would you respond?

Q: God used the faith of Paul & Silas to bring the jailer and his household to faith in Jesus that night. How have you witnessed the faith of others, going through difficult times themselves, yet praising God? What impact has that had on your faith and the faith of others? Ask God to help you develop that faith day by day, so when the time of testing comes, your faith will also be strong and God will attract others to Jesus.

Q: (vv.35-40) How did Paul then use his rights as a Roman citizen to (peacefully protest his wrongful beating and imprisonment without a trial)? How would this have helped protect the other believers in Philippi? How can we use our rights here in the US not for personal gain, but to help protect and multiply God's Kingdom?

PRAY: Lord thank you for your grace in rescuing me! Guide and direct me by the power of your Holy Spirit to have eyes to see and ears to listen for opportunities to speak your truth with boldness. Daily increase my faith and strengthen me through life's trials so that others may see the joy of my salvation even in the midst of difficulties and be attracted to Jesus. All for Your glory, in Jesus' name, Amen!



Harvest Growing Deeper

Evangelical Free Church

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)

Week of September 6, 2020

Acts 16

In Acts 15, Paul, Barnabas, the apostles and elders in the Jerusalem church all firmly agree that the gospel of Jesus Christ is simple. We are saved by God's grace alone, by faith (trust) in Christ alone. Nothing more is necessary. We don't have to first become Jewish or follow any custom, we simply come to Christ with our brokenness, repent of our sins, receive His free gift of salvation, forgiveness, and new eternal life with God. Paul would later have a disagreement with Barnabas over bringing Mark along on the next missionary journey since he deserted them once already. But God used it to open up two fronts for the gospel to take root and multiply.

Q: Describe a time when you found unexpected joy in the midst of a difficult situation.

Q: (16:1-3) What do we learn about Timothy and why would his background provide a unique asset to the mission?

Q: (vv.4-5) what message did they carry and what was the results of their continued investment in these churches?

Q: (vv. 6-10) what role did the Holy Spirit play in Paul's plans? Why might the Holy Spirit (also called the Spirit of Jesus) deny Paul's plans to share the gospel in certain areas?

Q: We all have our plans but praise God, the Lord determines our steps (Prov 16:9). Describe a time when your plans were re-directed by God and later you saw the benefit of that change?

Q: (vv.11-13) What was unique about the Roman city of Philippi and where did Paul seek people to share with?

Q: (vv.14-15) Why would Lydia have been a significant convert to Christ?

Q: (vv.16-18) who did Paul run into next and what was unique about her situation?

Q: (vv.16-19) This slave girl had no hope. Her "owners" used her for their own selfish gain. She was in physical and spiritual bondage. How did God rescue her? How is this a picture of God's grace in your life? ____

Q: (vv.17-18) Why would Paul cast a demon out of this girl if it was actually speaking the truth about who they were and what they were doing? If they had not cast the demon out, how might people have confused their message with being associated with the demonic spirit?

Q: (vv.19-24) Trouble then began because now the slave girl's "owners" had lost their personal profit. How did they try to cancel out Paul and Silas? How have you (or someone you know) been falsely accused or unfairly treated, attempting to cancel out God's truth?

Q: (vv.25-34) Paul & Silas were unfairly beaten, bruised and thrown into a cold, dark prison. They could have grown very bitter and angry, at those who falsely accused them, at the jailer who shackled them, and even shown anger at God. The circumstances looked grim for Paul & Silas. But instead, what was their response and how did that affect the other prisoners? Why is it important for us to still praise God even when we don't *feel* like it?
