



Main Passage: Acts 16:11-40

Theological Theme

While ministering to the church at Philippi, Paul and Silas demonstrated how the gospel message transcends boundaries that separate and divide people. God's people are called to live in harmony and unity without regard to social, racial, ethnic, or economic differences.

Introduction

- ? What is significant about a person doing something no one else has achieved before?
- ? How do new Bible study groups give opportunity for further advancement of the kingdom and get more people connected?

1. The Gospel Without Prejudice (Acts 16:11-18)

Paul, Silas, and their team sailed for Europe to continue their efforts to spread the gospel. As noted in Acts 16:9, Paul received a vision to go to Macedonia. In responding to that call, the gospel was taken to an entirely new continent. The plan was to plant churches in major cities so that the gospel would spread from those influential places. Philippi was the foremost city in Macedonia, and that is where this missionary journey really sprouted.

- ? What would be the benefit of planting churches in the larger cities first?
- ? How have you experienced the power and importance of prayer in reaching people with the gospel?
- ? Application: How can you protect your own life from giving the enemy a foothold in areas of your life?

2. Facing Opposition (Acts 16:19-29)

Paul and Silas made enemies by casting the demon out of the slave girl. Her masters were not happy when she was freed from the evil spirit and the power it brought. The girl's freedom from oppression meant financial loss for her owners. The owners brought Paul and Silas before the authorities to seek charges against them.

- ? The magistrates and crowd turned against Paul and Silas quickly. How do you see the world acting biased against Christians today?
- ? Application: How would you have responded if you were in Paul and Silas's position when the earthquake came?

3. The Power of the Gospel (Acts 16:30-40)

The Philippian jailer was so shocked by how Paul and Silas conducted themselves that he recognized their message as the truth. He saw something very different about these men and asked for help. That Paul and Silas were more concerned for this one man's soul and salvation over their own freedom spoke volumes, and the jailer asked how he could be saved.

❓ Who has God given you influence with? Neighbors, co-workers, someone with a common hobby, kids sports teams, etc? How might you share your God story with them?

❓ Why is it important that we look for God's activity in these areas of our lives?

❓ Application: What from today's passage encourages you to overcome obstacles, fears, or excuses so that you can have a conversation about Christ with them?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).