

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday August 16, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 16:25–34**, Paul and Silas show us what faith can look like when life does not go the way we hoped. God is not promising that following Jesus will keep us from hardship; He is inviting us to trust Him, worship Him, and remain faithful in the middle of it. When life becomes painful or frustrating, our natural response is often to complain, question, or focus only on getting out. But God can use the places and circumstances we would never choose to display His grace to the people around us. This passage invites us to see where God has placed us differently and to respond with faith and obedience.

Main Passage:

Acts 16:25–34

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Nothing Can Stop It

READ ALOUD

Acts 16:25–34

Opening Question: What is a difficult situation that became easier because someone was there with you?

- What stands out to you about the way Paul and Silas respond to their situation?
- What do you notice about the jailer's response to what happens?
- Why do you think the way Paul and Silas responded to suffering had such an impact on the jailer?
- Where might people around us be watching how we respond to difficult circumstances?

APPLY

- Where has God placed you right now—at home, work, school, or somewhere else—that you may need to start seeing as an opportunity instead of simply a circumstance?
- When pressure or disappointment comes, what tends to come out of you first? What would it look like to turn toward God in that moment?
- Who has God placed around you who may need to see or hear the good news of Jesus through your life?

RESPOND

- What is one specific way you can faithfully live out your assignment where God has placed you this week?
- Who is one person you will intentionally pray for, encourage, or share the good news of Jesus with this week?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Acts 16:16–24

- What circumstances led Paul and Silas into prison?
- What do these verses add to your understanding of their praying and singing in verses 25–34?
- How does knowing what they had just experienced change the way you think about faithfulness during hardship?

PRAY

Invite the group to quietly consider where God has placed them and what He may be showing them through this passage. Ask God for grace to trust Him when circumstances are difficult and courage to respond with worship rather than fear or complaining. Pray for specific people around you who need Jesus, asking God to open their hearts to the truth of the gospel. Thank Jesus for His grace, salvation, and His ability to transform lives.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 16:25–34

- What were Paul and Silas doing even though they were in prison?
- What do you think the other prisoners and the jailer noticed about them?
- What happened when the jailer heard about Jesus?
- How can we show others that we trust Jesus when something difficult happens?

For younger children: Help your child remember that we can talk to Jesus, trust Him, and praise Him even when things are hard.

For older kids or students: Who is someone at school, on your team, or in your friend group who might notice the way you follow Jesus this week?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 17:1–9
- **Day 2:** Acts 17:10–15
- **Day 3:** Acts 17:16–21
- **Day 4:** Acts 17:22–34
- **Day 5:** Acts 17:35–34

What's Going On?

Paul and Silas are in Philippi sharing the gospel when they are beaten and thrown into prison. Instead of allowing their suffering to silence their faith, they pray and sing to God while the other prisoners listen. After an earthquake opens the prison doors, they choose not to escape, and their response creates an opportunity for the jailer to ask how he can be saved. Paul points him to Jesus, the gospel is shared with his household, and their belief immediately begins producing visible change.

This moment shows how the church continues moving forward even through circumstances that appear to work against it. A prison becomes a place of worship, suffering becomes an opportunity for witness, and a jailer becomes part of a household transformed by the gospel.

A Bit of Background

Philippi was a Roman colony, and the jailer carried serious responsibility for the prisoners entrusted to him. When he saw the prison doors open, he assumed the prisoners had escaped and believed his own life was effectively over. Paul's decision to remain and call out, "Don't harm yourself," showed the jailer something radically different. The gospel was not only something Paul preached—it was already changing how he treated the person responsible for imprisoning him.