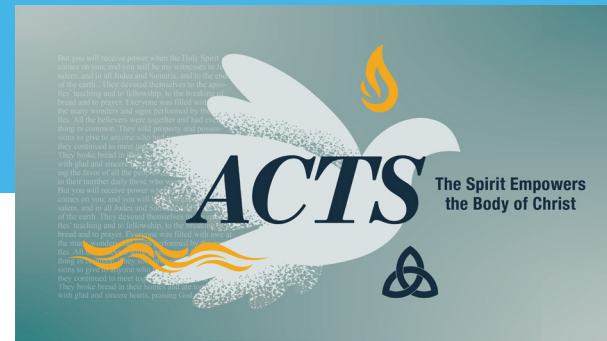


# Discussion Questions

January 26, 2025

## Acts 16:16-40

### Singing in the Darkness



1. Share a time when you had to hold onto the truth of God's goodness and faithfulness when you could not see or feel it at the time.
2. Read Acts 16:16-22  
What stands out to you about the story of the slave girl?  
  
What do these kinds of "spirits" look like today? What is to be our response as Christians?  
  
In what ways does the true gospel today come into conflict with the culture of today that could lead to Christians being hated by the world?
3. Read Acts 16:23-34  
How did Paul and Silas respond to being unjustly beaten and imprisoned (verses 22-25)? What can we learn from their attitudes?  
  
The sermon emphasized how singing hymns embeds God's truths in our hearts. How has worship music or scripture memory shaped your perspective during a challenging season?
4. The sermon spoke about how central worship is to the formation of believers, even when it is a style we don't prefer or words that we don't relate to as much, etc. Discuss how we as Christians should approach worship that doesn't meet our preferences.  
  
Are there ways God has challenged you or met you even when it was outside the box of your preferred style or when you didn't feel like it?
5. We see how God used Paul & Silas' suffering in order to rescue the jailor & his family, and that God is not opposed to not making us uncomfortable in order to reach his "lost sheep." Discuss what this looks like for us today. Where has/is God moved/moving you outside of your own comfort zones for the sake of others?
6. Read Acts 16:35-40  
Why do you think Paul insisted on a public acknowledgment of their release?
7. Take some time to pray out the truth of God's character. You could sing, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases". Together thank God for his faithfulness in the midst of the darkness and the light.

Acts 16:16-33 (NLT)

One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved."

This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her.

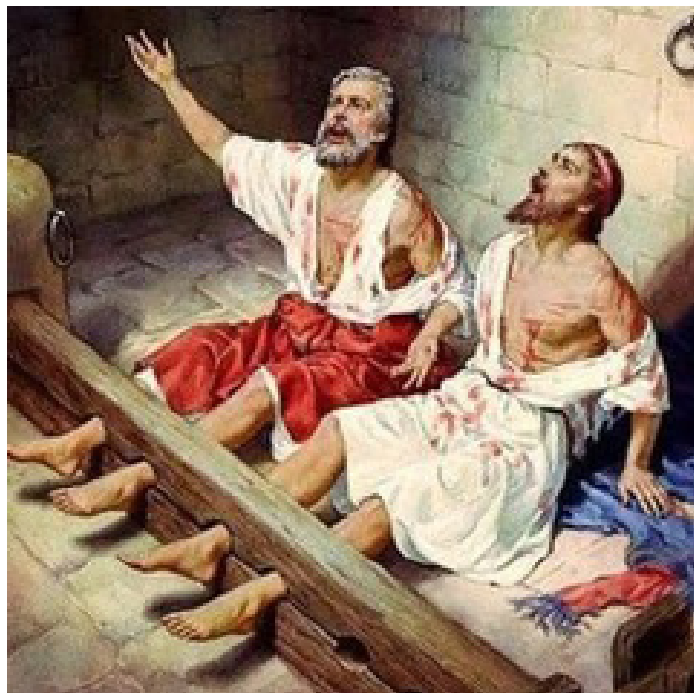
Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. "The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted to the city officials. "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice."

A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.



#### **Lamentations 3:21–23 (ESV)**

*But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end; they are new  
every morning; great is your faithfulness.*