

The Way of the Early Church, Part 9: Paul and Silas in Prison

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **The Way of the Early Church**
 - In this series we unlock several powerful eternal principles in order to see God do mighty things!
- **This Week: Paul and Silas go to Prison.**
- In this situation various people are affected by the power of God. Most in a positive way but some in a negative way. Compare each person or group and note how they were affected.
- **Acts 16:12-34**
 - Lydia and her household. She just believed the message and she and her household were saved.
 - Slave Girl. She was delivered from an evil spirit.
 - Nothing more is said about her. Did she believe? What do you think her future was like?
 - Owners of the Slave Girl.
 - Their business was ruined and they became angry after the encounter with the power of God!
 - What if all of the vice businesses were ruined by the Gospel!!
 - Has the Gospel ever inconvenienced you or made you angry?
 - Does this ever happen inside the church? What are the results of that?
 - Paul and Silas.
 - Remember how we win from two weeks ago?
 - We, as believers in Jesus, win when we walk by faith, remain faithful and obedient to God, and keep our love of God to the end.
 - Not necessarily when we live longer more comfortable lives.
 - Who would you rather be, Paul and Silas or the slave owners?
 - How do you think you would do in their situation?
 - What is the pettiest thing that made you mad at God or the church or another believer?
 - The Other Prisoners.
 - They were listening. I think they all got saved. They stayed and Paul new they had stayed.
 - They saw the courage and faith of Paul and Silas and were moved.
 - Have you ever been inspired by someone else's struggle and courage?
 - What if Paul and Silas had been bickering with each other and whining to God instead of being courageous and full of faith?
 - The Jailer.
 - How do prisoners normally feel about their jailer?
 - All of these prisoners were needed to spare this man's life. That is love from God.
 - What if the prisoners had ran? He'd be dead and his family lost.
 - Do not let the devil win by ending your life. Be born again and live for Christ. He will redeem you, give you a purpose, and give you eternal life!
 - The Jailer's Household.
 - They didn't see any of this, but they believed the testimony. (Like Lydia and her family.)
 - Maybe this is you. You haven't seen it but you can believe just the same! That is good!!
- The power of God affected different people in different ways.
 - God is always the same. The difference was in who they were and what they wanted.
 - The slave owners wanted to gain money by exploiting people. Others were open to God.
 - How about you? What type of person are you? How will you respond to God?
 - **Hebrews 10:39** Do not shrink back. You are able to be strong and courageous!
 - Don't miss this opportunity to overcome!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!