

Acts 16

Introduction

This week we're focusing on one chapter, Acts 16, which reads like a movie script: Mentorships, crushed dreams and new visions, Lydia's conversion, unfair imprisonments, and an earthquake... phew!

Discussion Questions

1. What comments caught your attention in the video? What would you say about it?
2. Mentors are important in our lives, as they encourage us to grow and be more fully ourselves. Who have been mentors in your life? Are they family, friends, teachers, coworkers? Who have you mentored?
3. Have you ever had a great idea that just never happened, or have there been doors in your life that just never opened for you? How did this make you feel? Know that Paul had similar feelings. Now, think about the no's in your life that opened the door to something so much better. God's No to Paul opened the door to ministry on a whole new continent. If you're willing, please share a No that paved the way for a next Yes.
4. Lydia's story is a powerful story of conversion which changed her life forever. How did the Lord open your heart to respond to the Gospel? When did you know that you were a follower of Jesus? Are there places where it is easier for you to be a witness for Jesus?
5. Paul and Silas are imprisoned for changing the status quo, as they exorcise a demon from a slave girl. Have you ever felt punishment for doing the right thing? How did that make you feel?
6. What music calms your spirits when you're anxious or uncertain? What music helps you praise and worship God?
7. Paul and Silas could have chosen to be angry and bitter about their imprisonment, but instead they chose faith and hope. Have there been times where it's been easier to be bitter rather than being hopeful? How has God helped you in these moments?
8. How may we pray for you this week?

Prayer

Holy God, thank you for being in the midst of our everyday lives. Thank you for your no's that opened to the door for a new opportunity. Thank you for the ways that you liberate all who are enslaved and victimized in our world. Thank you for the gift of faith, which causes us to seek you and desire to live and love like your Son, Jesus Christ, so that others would discover you as well. Amen.

Scripture Passage – Acts 16