

NOTES



PRAYER

"Heavenly Father, we gather in Your presence with grateful hearts. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to Your will, especially Your heart for mission and Your love for all people. Help us to see Your purpose in our lives, even in times of trial. May we be encouraged and strengthened to share Your Gospel with boldness and compassion. Guide our discussion and fill us with Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen."

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

"If you could be a character in any adventure movie, who would you be and what special mission would you want to go on?"

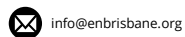
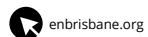


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WORD

22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

[Acts 16:22-34 \(ESV\)](#)

Rebecca Bitrus was abducted by Boko Haram in 2014 and endured two years of captivity, during which she was forced to renounce her faith. Despite immense pressure, she refused and continued to silently pray and trust in Jesus. After escaping, she has shared her story, emphasizing forgiveness and faith. Her resilience and continued praise of Jesus despite her ordeal have been a source of inspiration for many Christians facing persecution.

Similarly in Acts 16:22-34, we see a powerful example of God's missional heart through the experiences of Paul and Silas. Despite being unjustly beaten and imprisoned, they remained steadfast in their faith, praying and singing hymns to God. Their unwavering commitment to their mission and their resilient spirit amidst trials led to a miraculous earthquake that not only freed them but also provided an opportunity for the salvation of the jailer and his entire household.

God's heart for mission is evident as He uses the adversity faced by Paul and Silas to demonstrate His power and love. The jailer, initially responsible for their imprisonment, becomes a recipient of God's grace and salvation. This passage highlights that even in the darkest moments, God can use our circumstances to fulfill His greater purpose. It encourages us to remain faithful and missional, trusting that God is at work even when we face trials.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What can we learn from Paul and Silas about maintaining our faith and mission during difficult times?
2. How did Paul and Silas' response to their unjust treatment impact those around them, especially the jailer?
3. In what ways can we be missional in our daily lives, even when we face challenges or opposition?
4. How can we build resilience in our faith, and why is it important for our mission to share the Gospel?

"Lord Jesus, we acknowledge You as our Saviour and King. We thank You for Your sacrifice and for commissioning us to make disciples of all nations. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and give us the strength to remain resilient and missional, no matter the trials we face. If there is anyone here who has not yet received You, we invite You into our hearts now. Use us, Lord, to spread Your love and truth to everyone we meet. In Your mighty name, we pray, Amen."