



HOPE UNLEASHED

GET TALKING

- Tell a funny story about a decision you made when you were a teenager.

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

In Paul and Silas' darkest prison time, they did 3 things:

1. They Prayed - God doesn't run from our struggles, He conquers them.
2. They Praised - They sang songs of praise and worship while they were still in chains and in the midst of their suffering.
3. They Proclaimed - God wants to unleash hope through the name of Jesus that will break the chains that bind you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (choose 2 or 3 questions)

1. Jesus came to set the captives free (Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 14:17-19). What are some chains that bind people? How have you seen chains become a barrier in someone's life?
2. Take your time and read Acts 16:16-34. Record any questions that come to mind, or verses that stand out to you. Share with the group.

When we call upon the name of Jesus things actually change.

- As believers, why does calling on the name of Jesus make a difference?
 - How does proclaiming truth over a situation help to break the chains that bind us?
 - How has proclaiming or praying truth brought freedom for you in the past?
4. Go back through verses 25-34. As Pastor Bob pointed out in his message, Paul and Silas prayed, praised and proclaimed. Together, think of the possible things they prayed about, what they were praising, and what they proclaimed. Next, brainstorm together things you can pray, praise and proclaim that would bring glory to God. Practice these things with each other.

BIG IDEA

Find your freedom in Jesus.

NEXT STEPS

What have you learned about the power that comes from the name of Jesus Christ? How might we be able to respond differently in difficult situations that we find ourselves in going forward?

If you haven't done so already, reflect on the chains in your life that you would like God to break. Offer these things to God through prayer. Praise Jesus for what He has done. Our Lord Jesus came for you, died for you, and was raised to new life for you, all so that you would become His very own. Finally, proclaim the truth of God's promises and remember Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

(continued)

Prayer

Let's try a new way to pray today. Have each person write a chain they have in their life they would like God to break in the chat feed. Have everyone focus on the chain that was written below their entry with the last person taking the first. Depending on your group, you can:

- Have each person read the chain they picked and proclaim a truth over that person.
- Have each person say a prayer based on the chain they picked.
- Have each person pray silently for the chain they picked.
- Have each person note the chain a person picked and send a text or email to that person.
- Have each person take the chain they picked and send a text or email to the group when they have found a scripture relating to the chain to proclaim over them.