



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episodes 21 and 22:
"In the Dark, Parts 1 and 2"
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 16:16-40 and selected passages

1. In Acts 16:19-24, we see Paul and Silas encountering an unexpected crisis. What does their response to this crisis reveal about their character (Acts 16:25)? What does your response to crisis demonstrate about your character?

2. How did Paul's attitudes affect his actions while in the Philippian prison (Acts 16:25)? Read *Philippians 1:21* and *4:11-13*. How do these statements by Paul demonstrate the attitude that God desires for us to have (see also *James 1:2-4*)?

3. Would you agree that "life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it (see *Philippians 4:6-7*)?" Explain your answer. Describe a time when you experienced suffering. Did your reaction determine your suffering experience?

4. How did God use Paul's physical suffering to bring about salvation for the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:28-30, 34)? Has God ever used suffering in your life to accomplish His salvation purposes?

5. While Paul experiences freedom of one kind, the Philippian jailer experiences freedom of another. From what was the jailer freed (*Acts 16:32-33*)? What did he gain as part of his freedom (*Acts 10:43; John 3:15-16; Ephesians 1:7*)?

6. God made sure that Paul's negative (or "darkness") experiences were not wasted as He carried forth His work of salvation. What are some other examples of God working in "darkness" throughout history (*Genesis 1:1-2; 50:20; 2 Corinthians 8:9*)?

7. Spend some time praying for those you know who may be suffering. How might God specifically be using their experience to bring about good in others' lives? How can you encourage them this week in the midst of their suffering (*Romans 12:15*)?

Memory Verse:

**"But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."
(Acts 16:25, NASB)**