

Unchained & Unhindered
PAUL & SILAS IN PRISON
MIKE YODER | ACTS 16

WARM UP

What excites you about springtime?

COMING UP GRACEPOLARIS.ORG/CALENDAR

Passion Week 2017:

Palm Sunday April 9, 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30 a.m.

Communion April 9, 5:00 p.m.

Good Friday April 14, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday April 16, 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30 a.m.

Good Friday & Easter Sunday Yard Signs

Pick one up at the Worship Center and display it in your yard this week!

MOPS Kiddie Konsignment Sale

Saturday, April 8, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
& 1:00–3:00 p.m. (50% OFF Sale)

WITNESS

- On your white board, list the names of people in your sphere of influence you're praying will come to know Jesus.
- Share any progress/updates. Pray together for God to use you and your Grace Group to influence these people for Jesus.

PRAY

Now that Giving Sunday has come, pray that we would celebrate God's work, enjoy harmony, be excited about the next steps in our faith journey together, and renew our commitment to Him. Pray that we would give ourselves joyfully and fully to our mission of multiplying devoted followers of Jesus.

Paul & Silas in Prison

God placed Paul and Silas in a frightening situation, only to prove He was powerful to direct the spread of the Gospel. A servant girl had just been freed from possession by an evil spirit, but this was followed by the unjust imprisonment of Paul and Silas. While Paul and Silas were in jail, God sent an earthquake that opened the prison and loosed the chains of all the prisoners. Through this miraculous intervention, the jailer heard and believed the good news of Jesus Christ.

The imprisonment of Paul and Silas was outside their control. Their response of praising God, however, was under their control. Paul and Silas faithfully suffered for Christ, which led to an unexpected opportunity to share the Gospel with the Philippian jailer and his family. This passage is a wonderful example of the Gospel flourishing in moments of confusion, discomfort, and sacrifice.

DIVE INTO SCRIPTURE

Read these verses and note how they relate to this week's passage.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12–14

1 THESSALONIANS 1:4–10

1 PETER 3:13–17

ROMANS 5:1–5

WEEK 11 QUESTIONS

- 1 Paul and Silas were living in obedience to God, yet they were punished harshly for it. Has God placed you in a situation where your suffering has unexpectedly led to an opportunity to share the hope of salvation through Jesus Christ? What happened?
- 2 Paul and Silas' perseverance and integrity led to an opportunity for the Philippian jailer and his family to hear the Gospel. When you go through uncomfortable moments where life doesn't make sense, how can you learn to trust that God's plans for you have far-reaching, eternal effects?

TRUSTING THE GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

- 1 What are modern-day examples of the obstacles God's people faced in this week's passage?
- 2 If you were in this situation, how would you be tempted to respond in ways other than to trust in God's intervention?
- 3 What practical application for your own life do you see in this story? What practical application do you see for our church? If we placed our trust in this kind of God, what would be different about us?