



Background:

Paul's exorcism of the girl's demon, while great for the girl, seriously cut into the income of the girl's handlers. They were enraged, and determined to use all means possible, including flogging and incarceration, to cause these men to pay for their actions.

It may be hard for us to imagine sitting awake at midnight in a jail, singing praises to the Lord. The stocks, in which the men were placed, would have made comfortable sleep nearly impossible, so they were still awake at midnight. The fact that they could still praise God during this time is a testimony to the depth of their faith and devotion to Christ.



Read Acts 16:19-24

The exorcism of the girl's demon was nothing less than a miracle. Have you ever been present to see a miracle happen? Explain your answer.

Have you ever done something nice for another person, only to have that action questioned, or your act of kindness misunderstood? Share your story.

Read Acts 16:25-34

Explain the correlation between the apostle's joy and faithfulness, and the jailer's conversion.

Would you be willing to sacrifice creature comforts, even to the point of being jailed, if it meant another person might be saved? Explain your answer.

Read John 16:16-24; James 1:2-18

How does the promise of Christ's return bring you joy?

When have you faced trials that test your faith? Have you been steadfast in your faith? Why do you answer the way you do?



Life Change:

Would you describe yourself as joyful in your faith, or do you grumble about all the things that are wrong in this world? Why do you think that is?

How can you strengthen your faith walk so you can be more effective for the Kingdom?

Are there any parts of these Scriptures that you do not understand?



Getting Out There:

Even when persecuted, Paul and Silas did not hesitate to preach the gospel to their perceived enemies. Pray for the persecuted church around the world. Learn more about the persecuted church at www.persecution.com. Reflect on this question: If those being tortured (or even killed) for their faith do not cease in their efforts to share the gospel, how much bolder should you be in sharing the gospel?



Family Moments:

Elementary: Read Acts 16:25-29

What did the jailer expect to see when he returned to the jail? What made the actions of Paul and Silas different? What differences should others notice in us as Jesus followers?

*Pray as a family that God would give you strength to show His love, kindness, and compassion to others, so that they may see the difference God has made in your life and want to know more about Jesus.

Teen: Read Acts 16:30-33

According to this passage, what must we do to be saved from our sin?

If someone in the family we are praying for asked you what must they do to be saved, how would you answer? When were you first saved from your own sin?