

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week June 15, 2014

**This Week's Focus:** The sovereign work of God in the salvation of the Philippian jailor and the release of Paul and Silas from prison.

**This Week's Text:** Acts 16: 19 - 40

"Racially, socially, and psychologically they [Lydia, The Slave Girl, & The Jailor] were worlds apart. Yet all three were changed by the same gospel and were welcomed into the same church." **John Stott**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- Discuss the difference between all 3 converts focused on by Luke in chapter 16. Why are these differences significant for the reader to see?
- After their brutal beating, what is the first thing we see Paul & Silas doing in the jail? Why could they sing praises after something like that?
  - What are some excuses we have for holding a grudge against God rather than rejoicing in the gospel? Do they even come close to what these men endured?
  - How can our attitude in tough situations minister to others?
- Would Paul & Silas have been justified in fleeing the prison following the earthquake?
- Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, how do we see Paul do this in the Philippian jail?
- The jailor asks this questions, "What must I do to be saved?" Do you feel you could answer that question confidently?
- Why does Paul demand that they be released publically? Why could his decision have been extremely beneficial for the new Philippian church plant?
- Before departing from Philippi, Paul & Silas make a pit stop at Lydia's to encourage the believers. What does this show us about community?
  - In what ways have community group been an encouragement in a time of need?

**Gospel Celebration:**

- We need not fear what happens in this life, for we can be secure that we have a living hope of eternity with Christ.
- God can save anyone anytime, because of the gospel there is no racial or social barriers.

**Prayer Focus:**

- Rejoice in your salvation, remembering the great cost at which you were purchased.
- Ask God to empower you to share the gospel, like Paul, through any means necessary.

**Next Week's Text:** Acts 17:1-15