

WAYMAKER

Praise In Chains

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2 Timothy 2:8-9 — Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

During Trials, Remember Jesus Not Simply For **Memory**, But For **Clarity**.

Acts 16:17— She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.”

Acts 16:22 — The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.

Acts 16:23-24 — After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Don't Fight The Enemy In **Isolation**.

Acts 16:25 — About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

How To Endure Trials:

1) Get with People of God.

Acts 16:26 — Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

2) **Fight to see others set free.**

- God set them free by shaking what was once secure!

3) **Learn to Worship as our warfare.**

- Don't let prison break your praise.
- Our freedom isn't going to come at the hand of man, but in the shaking of our foundation.
- No one holds the key to our freedom but God.
- Praise breaks chains if you don't let the chains break your praise.

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Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: Is there a time in life when you can remember feeling like there was no way to get something accomplished. How did you handle it? Was there someone or something that helped you get through it?

DIGGING IN: The book of Acts is a very powerful and challenging book that displays the power and also the timing of God. Read together Acts Chapter 16:16-26, to begin your study time.

1. Chapter 16 is a story of God using Paul and Silas to do His will. In the story, they are used to perform a mighty miracle. Then they were instantly dragged away and persecuted. Although we are not persecuted the way they were, discuss as a group ways you have seen people come against you. How should we react as believers to persecution?
2. Sometimes God calls us to do things that we know are right, but the outcome for us is not good. Talk about a time you had to stand up for your faith or what was right. Was there any bad outcomes that came out of it? (Example: Loss of promotion, friend, job or relationship)
3. As in the story, while we are in the middle of difficult situations, God is more than capable of working things out the way He desires. How do we trust in God while in the middle of hard and difficult situations that don't seem like they are getting better?

BRINGING IT HOME: Worship is a powerful tool God has given us to recalibrate our perspectives in the midst of trials. Discuss as a group things that make God worthy of our worship. What can you do to daily worship and keep at the front of your mind the qualities and characteristics of God?