



TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Messiah Bible Study For All Ages | Summer 2025

Week of June 8

Life Through Faith in Christ

The Jailer and his Family Believe (**Acts 16:16-40**)

9:30 Intro and Opening Prayer

9:35 Together in the Word

Read - Acts 16:16-40

¹⁶Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷She 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." ¹⁸She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

²²The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly 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. ²⁷The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

³⁵ When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” ³⁶ The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.”

³⁷ But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

³⁸ The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. ³⁹ They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

Summarize it! Pick someone in your group to give a summary of the lesson. (Be prepared to share it with everyone)

Talk about it! *(Below are a few discussion starters, use them if they’re helpful.)*

- **Question for kids?** How might you respond if you got in trouble even if you didn’t do anything wrong?
- Paul and Silas’ response to going to prison could have been feeling sorry for themselves, waiting patiently and quietly. Instead, they chose to sing hymns and pray loudly! What is our typical response when we encounter difficulties?
- When the jailer realized a miracle had just happened, he was afraid of God! Why do you think someone today might be afraid of God? How could this lesson help you better address those fears?
- Notice it wasn’t just the jailer who believed in the Lord Jesus; he and his whole household believed and were baptized! Why do you think the bible emphasize the jailer’s household and not just the jailer himself?

9:50 Break out (kids go to FMC and adults remain in fellowship hall for further study)

Share some insights you gained from your group discussion. (If you had a child in your group, what insights or questions did they have?)

Consider the jailer's response when he realized that the God of Paul and Silas was real. He asked, "what must I do to be saved?"

Do you think anyone in your life is pondering that question or a similar spiritual question?

If so, they likely won't come right out and ask you. However, in what subtle ways might some indicate that they are wondering about spiritual matters?

If they're not, how could you tactfully guide the conversation to get them thinking about such matters?

The jailer's fear turned to joy when he came to believe in his Lord Jesus. What's the connection between faith in Jesus and joy?

What happened to Paul and Silas was unfair and unfortunate, and yet there was a purpose in this hardship! Looking back on a personal hardship, how can you now see a purpose it served for your faith or someone else's?

Take it home! Use this for a personal or family Bible Study in the week ahead.

Set a time in the middle of the week: _____.

Read the next chapter of Acts, **Acts 17**.

- What different reactions did Paul encounter as they traveled to different places?
- What do these verses lead you to pray about? (Pray those things as you wrap up your study)

Application Verse: *If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)*