

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 05.30.2021

CHRIST IS IN THE CRISIS – ACTS 16:16-34

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

In today's lesson Paul encounters a demon possessed girl whom he exorcised of this demonic entity. The Greek Word "puthona" is where we get our English word Python like a large serpent. Remember the Garden of Eden, Satan appeared as a serpent. In ancient mythology the Greek god Apollo was said to have slain the great serpent or dragon Python and took his great gifts of prediction. The people thought this girl was the voice of Apollo. Scripture here tells us she was possessed by an evil spirit which gave her the power of fortune telling. People went to her in the hope their future would be good, their lost items found and mysteries would be solved. The point is to see the power of sin to enslave and bind a person in the world of divination, fortune-telling, witchcraft, sorcery and astrology. Python – a twisting spirit will confuse you, make you unsure, anxious, fearful and depressed! Notice the testimony of the spirit was untrue. This is seen in the Greek which reads "a WAY of salvation," not "the way" as you see it in English. The word "the" (definite article) is not in the Greek. The evil spirit was proclaiming that Saul preaches only one of many ways to reach the Lord – a lie that continues to be widespread today! But the day arrived when Paul became grieved over this girl enslaved by sin, and her being used by greedy men, the false witness to the Lord's name, and over the mocking and ridicule of his ministry as the servant of Jesus. Paul whipped around and delivered the girl. He addressed the evil spirit within her. The power she had was not her own, but of an evil spirit. It was the evil spirit that was the problem, not the girl. Paul called on the name of Messiah Yeshua and she was clean & healed immediately! Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion:

1. What struck you or stood out to you from this week's sermon in Acts 16?
2. Have you ever heard the saying "If you give an inch, they will take a mile" What does that mean to you?
3. In what ways do we give an "inch" in our lives that can have negative effects on us?

## Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 16:16-24

1. What was the slave girl in 16:16 like? Define the terms used to describe her.
2. What did she say about Paul and Silas, and what did Paul do about it—16:17,18? (Think: What characteristics of miracles are demonstrated here?)
3. What did the girl's masters do to Paul and Silas, and what accusations did they make—16:19-21? (Think: Why did they do this, and why were the authorities concerned?)
4. What did the magistrates do to Paul and Silas—16:22,23? (Think: What was wrong about the treatment given Paul and Silas?)
5. What did the jailer do to secure Paul and Silas—16:24?

## Visitation/Restoration in 2021

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 16:25-31

1. How did Paul and Silas respond to this treatment –16:25? (Think: What can we learn?)
2. What happened about midnight and how did it affect the prisoners –16:26?
3. How did the jailer respond –16:27? (Think: Why would he act this way?)
4. How did Paul stop the jailer–16:28? What did the jailer ask–16:30? (Think: Why is this an important question?)
5. What answer did Paul and Silas give initially –16:31? (Think: What do other Scriptures teach how to be saved?)

Case Study: Some people believe that v31 contains everything people need to know to be saved. Is v31 all that the jailer was taught, and does it contain God's whole message for sinners? How do you know?

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 16:32-34

1. What else did the jailer and his household do –16:32,33? (Think: About what time did all this occur?)
2. What can we learn from the fact this was done immediately?)
3. What happened afterward –16:34?

#### Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

**Pastor Ray shared that when Paul and Silas were beaten and put in prison, they being filled with the Holy Spirit began to praise God rather than complain. Remember that when you are in pain, the midnight hour is not the easiest time for a midnight concert, but God gives a Song in the Night. Songs in the night come only from God. Prayer and Praise are supernatural and powerful weapons. You see, Paul and Silas were the only ones in that city who were truly free! It was the city of Philippi that were prisoners, who needed to be delivered, and that is what the Lord did! He Opened a City and Paul and Silas had new areas of their own hearts opened by their Prayer and Experience of the Presence of God with them in the terrible dungeon! And the Lord is with you right now. Do you know Him, Do you See Him, can you Hear Him, and can you Feel Him? He is with you.**

1. When have you experienced a "song in the night" explain the situation?
2. Pastor Ray said that we are not to give even an inch to the demonic realm. Why is this so important to be careful about what we see and hear in media? (Renounce all astrology, palm reading, occultism, Ouija boards etc.)
3. What are your take-aways from today's lesson?
4. Have each member make an "I will statement" from this lesson. "Express what the Lord has impressed on their heart to obey. Who will you share this with this week?"

PRAYER - Pray that you will take advantage of opportunities to witness to the people God places in their lives.

*"The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me — A prayer to the God of my life." Psalm 42:8*