

Icebreaker:

Listen while someone in the group tells their faith story. Listen for answers to questions like these from their stories:

- How and why did you come to faith?
- Who was instrumental in that process?
- What was going on in your life to prepare you for that?
- What is a key scripture (or Bible story) that helped you come to faith?
- What is different about your life today because you came to faith?

Study

Read Acts 16:13–15.

1. In what ways can you identify with Lydia and her coming to faith story?

2What did Paul do? What did God do? And what did Lydia do?

Read Acts 16:16–24.

3. Compare the slave girl's coming to faith story to Lydia's. What is different? What is the same?

4. In what ways can you identify with the slave girl's faith story? Can you share a time when you experienced or witnessed a dramatic deliverance from evil?

5. What does the townspeople's reaction to her conversion tell you about evil?

Read Acts 16:25–34.

6. After Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown in jail, they were praying, praising God, and singing. Why were they able to do that?

7. What can we learn from reading that their fellow prisoners listened to them? What would you have said in response to the jailer's question, "What must I do to be saved?"

8. The jailer didn't appear to be an exceptional intellectual or overly emotional. In what way can you identify with this jailer's "common man" coming to faith story?

Personal Application:

As his witnesses, we need to know that God is working.

9. Why is it encouraging to know from Acts 16 that God is working in each of these three faith stories?

10. What part must we play knowing that God is working? How do we pray? What do we say? Where do we go?

As his witnesses, we need to know that the gospel is for everyone.

11. What does this mean for you and the people you know that seem so far from faith in Christ?

12. How can you see the need to adapt your methods for the people God has placed in your life?

As His witnesses, we need to know that God loves to save entire households.

13. How has faith spread through your family, friends, neighbors?

Imagine you can measure your “personal faith sharing outreach temperature” in degrees.

14. What is your current personal outreach temperature on a scale of 1 to 10?

15. What is the next step you can take to raise your outreach temperature by one degree?