



NL STUDY GUIDE

CHURCH *under* CONSTRUCTION:
A STUDY OF **ACTS PART 2**
MESSAGE 5: THE PRISONERS IN CHAINS

Pastor Troy Jones
March 12-13, 2016

Acts 16:25-33 (NIV)

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 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. ²⁷ The 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. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He 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.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 16:25-33 (NIV)

Watch this week's Life Group Session: nlchurch.com/actsvideos.
Watch this week's message online: nlchurch.com/watch.

OBSERVATION

Paul and Silas don't do anything wrong, yet they find themselves in the middle of a town riot. Rather than argue and fight about the justness of their cause, they both submit to the local authorities and trust God to work out their situation. This is why they are able to worship in the middle of the prison, to lift their hands in praise in spite of the chains.

Historical Note

The city of Philippi was named after the father of Alexander the Great, and was a very Greek city—but because Mark Antony defeated Brutus here after the murder of Julius Caesar, it also became a Roman municipality, the highest honor a non-Roman city could achieve. It was a center of emperor worship, a hub of commerce, and important to church history because Paul established the first church in Europe there.

- 1 Why do you think Paul and Silas stayed in the prison after the earthquake?
- 2 The jailer was ready to kill himself after the earthquake—what is significant about his response to the message of Paul and Silas?
- 3 Why would Philippi be a strategic city for the launch of the Gospel into Europe? What is significant about the results of this second journey for Paul into the city?

APPLICATION

When you apply something, you put it into practice. It's one thing to read the Bible, it's another thing to live it out. A practical application of what you just observed from today's study can help you discover just how much impact the Bible can have on every situation you may face!

In this section, discuss together ways you can apply what you've learned from the teaching and the Bible study. Then, think about some practical ways you can live out what you've learned.

- 1 When you are in a bad place in life, how do you usually respond? What can you do to respond more like Paul and Silas?
- 2 The jailer and his whole family were saved as a result of Paul and Silas' response to their circumstance. How can you help others see Jesus by how you respond to tough times?
- 3 They were unjustly accused and thrown in prison, yet they sat and praised God while they were there. When you face a tough time, how can you turn your response to one of worship?

PRAYER

Use the space below to write out your prayer in response to today's message.

My take away today: _____

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