

# ACTS

## Bible Study

2018-2019



Lesson: 18  
Acts 16:16-40

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Read this week's scripture and answer the questions below. As you read, consider how these verses fit into what you are seeing or experiencing today. Prepare to share with your small group anything that jumped out at you, confused you, encourage you, challenged or convicted you. Then take some time to read and meditate on the psalm of the week.

1. Before reading, silence and still yourself before the Lord. Ask for understanding as you take up his word. Read the whole passage, vs. 16-40, what stands out to you? See God's provision and protection through some hairy circumstances. Bring your circumstances to the Lord in prayer today.
2. Focus on verses 16 and 17. Note that this demon-possessed girl knows exactly who Paul and Silas are and what they are about. See the difference between knowledge and faith. Faith can be seen in Paul casting out this demon by the name of Jesus. In what ways have you let knowledge replace faith? Let these convictions lead you to prayer, asking for increased faith.
3. Take in verses 19-24. Demonic powers strike back by utilizing those who benefit from their work. Paul and Silas will pay the costs of discipleship. In the midst of this battlefield God is present and we shall soon see He is powerful. Where do you see the battle? Are you engaged in it? Bring the battle to the Lord and pray that His will would be done.
4. Rest in verse 25. In prison, in stocks, in deep trouble, what do Paul and Silas do? Let their example lead you to prayer...and if you're man enough singing!
5. Now take in this story of the jailer, verses 25-31. See the earthquake: God's awesome intervention. See the jailer's fear: his world is undone. See the gospel: it always brings life and it always moves to bless others. This jailer might seem an unlikely recipient of grace, but not to God. Do you know any jailers? Bring them to the Lord in prayer today, ask that salvation would come to their household today...then make that call, send that text, share the blessing.
6. Read verses 35-37. Note Paul's passivity, his gentleness, and his compliance. It's not there! Here we see boldness, a chipiness, a pluck we might recognize. Pray that God would give you the wisdom to know the moments when we are called to bend and those where we are called to push back.
7. Spend time in verses 38-40. See the resolution between Paul and the magistrates. See Paul gather again with his fellow disciples at Lydia's house. Resolution. Relationships. Let these two hallmarks of the faith lead you to prayer today.

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Notes/Prayer Request