

# The Jailer

## Acts 16:22-34

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

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 everybody'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 family 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 family.



### **Discussion Questions:**

Why does God allow hard times to happen to believers?

How does your response to hard times show your faith to others?

Why is it so important to have mercy on the lives of other people?

What type of faith history does your family have? Were you raised in faith or not?

Why is it important to focus more on Jesus than any other opinion in life?

What are good ways to help others come to know Jesus?

### **Ministry Time Questions:**

Has anyone responded poorly to hard times in front of non-believers recently and damaged their ability to share about faith?

Does anyone have lost family members that we can pray for tonight?