

## MAIN POINT

*True freedom begins when we focus on Jesus in uncertain times because He is greater than what we go through.*

## INTRODUCTION

Think back over the last week. Which day was the worst? What made it a bad day?

How did you deal with feeling chained by those circumstances?

**At some point our circumstances are going to seem overwhelming, either as a result of something we've done or something done to us. But there is hope. Freedom from the chains of our circumstances comes when we focus on Jesus, because Jesus is greater than what we are going through.**

## DISCUSSION

### > READ ACTS 16:1-40.

How do you think Paul might have felt after twice being prevented from carrying out his intentions?

How do you think that experience shaped Paul's faith? How do such experiences shape your faith?

What did Paul's response to the Macedonian man's request indicate about his ministry purpose?

What qualities and characteristics do you notice about Lydia from these verses? How did Lydia evidence the changes in her life?

What does verse 14 reveal about our role in sharing the gospel with others? How does this truth impact your feelings about evangelism?

Have you ever been in a situation like Paul and Silas—when you did the right thing but people responded badly? What was this like?

Is there a circumstance in your life that makes you feel like Paul and Silas—thrown in jail and put in the stocks? What is it? How might you respond to those circumstances?

What does the response of Paul and Silas to their circumstances show about them? If you were the jailer, what would you think of Paul and Silas singing? Of them remaining in the prison?

If you had been the jailer, how would you have reacted after the earthquake? What indications of the jailer's fear do you see?

What are evidences that the jailer's faith in the Lord was genuine? Why do you think he performed specific acts of service?

## APPLICATION

How will this study help you persevere in the mission God has for you when your plans change or things are difficult?