



The last half of the book of Acts reveals the amazing story of how the Jesus' community became a global movement, and it reveals keys to how it has remained so. There is so much to apply as we explore how we can “proclaim the kingdom of God with all boldness and without hindrance.”

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 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?

2 **Read Acts 16:16-24.** Share 1-2 things that stand out to you from this event. Have you ever been in a situation like Paul and Silas—when you did the right thing but people responded badly to it? What was that experience like for you and how did you respond to it?

3 **WE HAVE... response-ability.** **Read Acts 16:25.** Instead of cursing men, Paul and Silas are blessing God. Rick reminded us that “*worship does not need the right place; it needs the right perspective.*” In any circumstance we have the capacity to choose our response. What does the response of Paul and Silas to their circumstances show about them? When you face the trying situations, how do you generally respond? How can Paul and Silas’ example change your perspective?

4 **UNHINDERED PRAISE... is a pre-decision.** Paul and Silas are praising God without ever knowing if they would leave that prison. Their praise was not rooted in their circumstances but in God’s character. **Read Philippians 4:4.** Share an example of a time you chose to praise God even before you knew how your circumstances would turn out. What allowed you to have that type of response?

5 **UNHINDERED PRAISE... is a refocus.** Responsibility means we can fix what we fixate on. We must change our perspective because perspective changes everything. Why do we tend to focus on “what is wrong” instead of “what is right” and where does that lead us? **Read Philippians 4:8.** Share an example from your own life of how unhindered praise hinders the capacity of struggles to discourage us. What does worship help us remember?

6 **UNHINDERED PRAISE... is a witness.** Offerings to God are a blessing to others. **Read Acts 16:26-34.** Why did the jailer’s mood change after Paul’s statement in verse 28? What do you think caused the jailer to want to be saved?

7 Like Paul and Silas, some of you are in tough places right now. But you have response-ability. You can choose to offer God praise in those places you would not choose. **Prison** cannot hinder praise, but praise can hinder **bondage.** **Read Ephesians 5:18-19.** How has corporate praise time been a blessing to you personally? How have you seen it be a blessing to others?

Spend some time in prayer and praise as you end your time together (take a moment to read and reflect on some of these praises from the book of Psalms: **Psalm 3:1-4; 8:1-9; 9:1-2; 13:1-5; 18:1-2; 25:1-5; 27:1; 34:1-2; 95:1-5; and 100:1-3).**

