

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Tremors

Week 6: God Emboldens
Acts 16:35-40

Week of July 5, 2020
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Paul and Silas had been publicly beaten and jailed for their Christian faith. Later realizing that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, the magistrates ordered their release. That's when the Holy Spirit of God emboldened these missionaries to make some bold moves for the sake of the church of Jesus Christ.

Kicking it off: What's one of the most courageous things you've ever done?

Discussion:

1. *Acts 16:35-37* says, "When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: 'Release those men.' The jailer told Paul, 'The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.' But Paul said to the officers: 'They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.'"

Can you envision yourself taking such a bold stand as Paul did here? Why or why not?

2. Paul explains where such boldness comes from when, in *2 Timothy 1:7*, he writes, "The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

When have you ever experienced God's power making you bolder than you would be on your own?

3. *Acts 16:38-39* continues the story of Paul and Silas refusing to leave the jail unless escorted out by the magistrates. It says, "The officers reported this to the magistrates. And when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison."

Jeff explained that Paul and Silas wanted to protect and promote the church's reputation. With God's help, what bold step could you take to **promote the church**?

4. *Acts 16:39-40* continues, "The magistrates requested them to leave the city. After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left."

God had called Paul and Silas to establish the church in Philippi. Now, despite all that Paul and Silas had been through, God was giving them the boldness to **stay the course**. Where in your life do you need God's boldness to stay the course?

5. *Acts 16:40* says that Paul and Silas took time to **inspire the believers** there in Philippi. Jeff noted that bold people inspire boldness in others. How have you seen this play out?

Wrapping It Up: Pray together that God would embolden you to do His work.