

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Tremors

**Week 5: God Uses
Acts 16:26-34**

**Week of June 28, 2020
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

God wants to use us to make a mark for all eternity by helping others find eternal life in Christ. When we're willing to set aside our preoccupation with self, God gives us subtle promptings that, if we're responsive to them, can change someone's life forever.

Kicking it off: Can you think of a time when you had an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus but missed it? What happened?

Discussion:

1. Paul and Silas were chained in a Philippian jail singing God's praises at midnight when, in *Acts 16:26-27*, we read, "Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. 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."

If you were Paul or Silas, what do you think you would do at this point? Why do you think that?

2. *Acts 16:28-30* continues, "But Paul shouted, 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!' The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'"

Now what would you do if you were Paul or Silas? Would this development change your mind? Why or why not?

3. In answer to the jailer's salvation question, Paul and Silas replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household" (v. 31). "Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized" (vv. 32-33). The jailer, it says, "was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household" (v. 34).

How might this story have ended differently if Paul and Silas had disregarded God's prompting to stay for the jailer's sake, choosing instead to slip away into the night as free men?

4. In the video, Jeff said, "Those who are others-centered will find that God uses them greatly." In what ways, if any, have you seen this play out in your own life?

Wrapping It Up: Pray together that God would make you sensitive and responsive to His promptings to point others to Jesus and the eternal life He offers. Ask Him to give you an opportunity to do that real soon.