

Opportunity and Opposition

Acts 16:16-36

Icebreaker

- How do you usually respond when you face unfair treatment or hardship?

Read Acts 16:16-36

Background

God often uses seasons of opposition to create opportunities for His kingdom. What appears to be a setback can become the setting for God's greatest work.

Paul and Silas are in Philippi during Paul's second missionary journey. After Lydia's conversion (Acts 16:11–15), ministry is going well. Then everything changes.

A demon-possessed slave girl begins following them, leading to confrontation, false accusations, imprisonment, and suffering.

Yet God uses every stage of the opposition to open doors for the gospel.

Questions (Choose some of...)

Observation Questions

1. What particularly strikes you from this story?
2. Why do you think Paul became troubled by the slave girl's actions?
3. Why do you think Paul cast out the spirit even though it was speaking the truth about him?
4. What can we learn from Paul and Silas's attitude in prison (v25)?
5. What does the jailer's conversion tell us about how God can work through suffering?
6. What does the phrase "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" mean in the context of this passage?
7. How can worship and prayer change your perspective during difficult seasons?
8. Is there someone in your life who, like the jailer, may be searching for hope? How could you share the gospel with them?