

## LIFE Group Study: Week 5

### **Checking In**

Think back to your childhood. What kinds of dreams did you have? What did you want to do with your life? Did life turn out as you thought it would?

### **Memory Verse**

*“Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.”*  
Acts 16:25

### **Outline**

Read Acts 16:16-28. The will of God can get difficult at times. A God-given dream can take unforeseen turns. In this passage, the messenger is a slave who was a fortune teller. If the enemy cannot discredit the message, he discredits the messenger. The people in the city would associate her with Paul and Silas to cast doubt in the message.

Sometimes bad things happen to good people. What is one to do? Don't waste the darkness.

God is \_\_\_\_\_ my selfishness.  
God is \_\_\_\_\_ my shallow living.  
God is \_\_\_\_\_ my character.

God must change your character—in other words, what we do when no one is watching. Our character must be strong enough to dream on.

### **Short Video Material**

### **Discovery Questions**

1. As you look back on your life, were there times you were in a dark place because you made bad decisions?

2. Have you had what you felt was a God-given dream take an unforeseen turn? How did you respond to that?
3. Were there dark times when God challenged you to persevere until you could see a dream come to light?
4. When you face dark times, are you more focused on breaking out, or are you learning how to break free?
5. Have you ever prayed and worshipped from a place of defeat, devastation, disappointment, or darkness? How is that different than praying and worshipping when things are going well?



### **Putting It Into Practice**

1. Learn how to break free. Instead of asking God to bail you out quickly, be patient. Ask God for wisdom, and keep seeking Him, believing He will help you learn how to break free.
2. Read the story in Acts 16:16-28. Write down a song or Bible verse you can use to worship God when dark times come.
3. Pray and worship in the dark moments. When you encounter a struggle, difficulty, or dark time this week, take time to pray and worship God.



### **Prayer Direction**

Spend some time praising God for who He is, worshipping Him even in the darkness. What are some ways you can worship God for who He is in a mess?

Pray with one another in smaller groups of two or three.



### **Diving Deeper**

1. Spend some time reading your Bible on a daily basis (even if you start with 10 minutes a day).
2. Write down a few Bible verses and/or songs you can sing that help you worship God. Read through one each day so you have them to use in your next time of darkness.

3. Open up to your LIFE Group—it's a great way to start identifying people in your life who will help you worship God in the dark times.
4. Also, continue on with the Daily Devotions that follow.