

## TALK IT OVER

## GOD MOVES AT MIDNIGHT

### ICEBREAKER

Is there a worship song that's encouraged you in a hard season? Or a song that always lifts your spirits? Share **one song** that has helped you through tough times.

### INTRODUCTION

We all have those "midnight moments" when life feels dark, confusing, or hopeless. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were beaten, chained, and thrown into prison. Instead of giving up, they prayed and sang hymns to God at midnight. Their story reminds us that God often does His best work in the darkest hours. When we face our own "midnights," we can trust Him to guide us, strengthen us, and even use our struggles to help others find freedom.

### READ | Midnight DETOURS: *God leads differently in different seasons*

*"Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia... When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to." — Acts 16:6–7 (NIV)*

Paul had a plan, but God had a different one. The Holy Spirit closed the door and redirected Paul to Macedonia instead. Closed doors can feel frustrating, but sometimes rejection is God's redirection. He sees what we cannot, and protects us from what we don't know.

**Where have you experienced a closed door that later turned out to be God's protection or redirection?** (Examples: not getting a desired job but finding a new opportunity; having a relationship fail only to discover God's best for you later; etc.)

### READ | Midnight PRAISE: *Praise before the breakthrough*

*"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them." — Acts 16:25 (NIV)*

Instead of despairing, Paul and Silas chose to worship at midnight, and sang while the chains were still on. Worship shifts our focus, taking our eyes off the problem and putting them on God's power, grace, and love. When you choose to praise in the dark, it changes your perspective, strengthens your faith, and opens the door for God to move. Worship isn't just a song, but a weapon of spiritual warfare.

**What does it look like for you to praise God “at midnight?” How might worship change your outlook before anything changes in your circumstances?**

**READ | Midnight IMPACT: *Your chains can free someone else***

*“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. But Paul shouted, ‘Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!’ The jailer... fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.’ Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house... then immediately he and all his household were baptized...”*

— Acts 16:26–34 (NIV)

God miraculously freed Paul and Silas from the prison that night, but they still chose to stay, and their response led to the jailer and his entire family coming to Christ. Their faith in the darkest moments brought freedom to others. The same is true for us—people are watching how we handle hardship. Your midnight may become someone else’s morning. God never wastes your struggles, but can use them to bring hope to others who are looking for answers.

**How could your faith in a "midnight moment" help someone else take a step toward Jesus?** (Example: sharing with friends or family how Jesus has brought you through some of your darkest moments, etc.)

### **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

- This week, think of one area of your life that feels like "midnight." Instead of only asking God to remove it, ask Him to **use it**, and reveal what He’s trying to teach you and change in you. Choose to worship in the middle of it, believing He can bring good even from the dark.
- If you are going through a difficult season, ask your Small Group to pray for you.

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

Father God, thank You that You never waste our "midnights." Help us to trust Your leading when doors close, to worship You even when the chains are still on, and to remember that You can use our struggles to bring freedom to others. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## DAILY DEVOTION SCRIPTURES

**Day 1:** Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.

— **Acts 16:6 (NLT)**

**Day 2:** That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

— **Acts 16:9–10 (NLT)**

**Day 3:** Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

— **Acts 16:25 (NLT)**

**Day 4:** Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

— **Acts 16:26 (NLT)**

**Day 5:** He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

— **Acts 16:34 (NLT)**