

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Imagine that your group is starting a brand new church. What are some characteristics you would want the new church to have? Describe the kinds of people you would want to form the core group of the new church plant.

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)**Intro:**

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to follow up on this week?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Acts 16:16-34. The first Christ-followers in Philippi were a business woman, a slave girl, and a Gentile jailer. These three unlikely characters form the core group of the church plant in Philippi!

In our fight to expand the kingdom of God through Gospel outreach, know:**1. Where there's a door, there's a demon (vs. 16-18)**

1. Paul understood that his fight was not simply against the slave girl, but against spiritual forces of opposition. When was the last time you realized that life is a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12)?
2. How do you most often respond to spiritual opposition? How does James 4:7 tell us to respond? What are some practical ways you can respond biblically this week?
3. Do you tend to focus on the "door" or the "demon"? Why is that?

2. Where there's a mission, there's a mob (vs. 19-24)

1. Do you know anybody personally, or know stories of anybody who has been physically persecuted because of his/her faith in Jesus? Talk about the story with your group.
2. What kind of resistance do Christians face in our country today? How does this opposition compare to that of Christians in other countries, specifically in the 10/40 window?
3. Do you think the lack of physical persecution in our country illustrates a lack of fervent faith in our country? Why or why not?

3. Where there's worship, there's wonder (vs. 24-29)

1. The prisoners were listening to Paul and Silas singing praises while they were in chains. Make a quick list out loud of all the people who you interact with throughout each day, online and face-to-face. Be honest - do your listeners hear you worship or whine during difficult times?
2. What would it take this week to get to the place where you can "sing in your chains"?

4. Where there's repentance, there's regeneration (vs. 30-31)

1. The Philippian jailer asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" How would you answer him?
2. Look again at how Paul answered the jailer's question. Have you personally taken that step of believing in Jesus alone for your salvation? Tell your group about when that happened in your life.

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray for a joyful response to opposition to the Gospel in your own life this week.

MEMORIZE FOR NEXT TIME (FROM SUNDAY NIGHT)

- *Psalm 90:14 - Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.*

