

# HOME GROUPS

Discussion Questions for *Acts 16: The Midnight Song of Praise*  
Week of February 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Warm Up** Have you ever felt like “you could have it all”? What’s the fallacy of this kind of thinking?

- The first question to tackle tonight is on the next page!
- In **Acts 16:1-3**, why do you think Paul thought it so important to put Timothy through such a painful procedure, especially since he had just gone to great lengths in **Acts 15** to explain how salvation rests in faith in Jesus Christ alone? Have there been times in your life where you sacrificed something or endured a hardship because you knew it would benefit the faith of others? Do you have examples of people in your life who have put others first in order to be a tangible witness of Christ’s sacrificial love? Share. (See **1 Cor. 8:9-13** and **1 Cor. 10:23-33**)
- In **Acts 16:6-10**, we see the Holy Spirit direct Paul and Silas by actually *forbidding* and *not permitting* them to go into certain areas (**v.6,7**). Does this surprise you? Why or why not? It would appear that, without discouragement, they pressed on in their journey of being led into the work God *did* have in store for them. Have you ever felt that God was blocking a pathway, even though you felt like you were headed in the right direction? How did it make you feel? How can we, as believers, continue to stay encouraged when the Lord steers us in an unforeseen direction?
- The goal of the Christian life might be summarized as “*Knowing God and making Him known*” (**Matt. 22:37,38 & Phil. 3:10,11 & Matt. 28:18-20**) On Sunday, George encouraged all of us from **Philippians 3:10** to ask the question: “*How am I committed to know Jesus Christ and make Him known in my job? My relationships? My marriage? My parenting? My church? My community?*” Take a moment to prayerfully consider these questions. Where is the tension or “rub” for you personally? Do you feel overcommitted and scattered? Why might this be? Are there solutions?

**Wrap Up:** George shared a line on Sunday from a *Switchfoot* song that passionately pleads, “I want to live and die for bigger things. I’m tired of fighting for just me. This ain’t my American Dream.” As you close, pray that living for the cause of Christ would take the primary role in your life. Ask God to help clarify what might be confused in the way you’re living right now.

**“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, (11) if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” - Phil. 3:10,11 NKJV**

Paul articulated a central part of His life’s purpose when he said, **“That I may know Him”**, referring of course to the Lord Jesus Christ. *Knowing Jesus* was Paul’s personal goal and it impacted every avenue of his life. Making Jesus known was another crucial part of Paul’s mission (See **Rom. 15:20**). Take a moment to ask yourself the following questions:

- How am I **personally** committed to know Jesus Christ and make Him known? Where do I sense a greater need to grow toward this goal?

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- How am I committed to know Jesus Christ and make Him known within the context of my **marriage**? (If you’re not married, than in your closest life relationship?)

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- How am I committed to know Jesus Christ and make Him known in my relationship with my **kids**?

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- How am I committed to know Jesus Christ and make Him known in my role at **work**? Do people know that I live for Jesus? How can I begin to increase my commitment to Christ in my place of work?

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Where is the tension or “rub” for you personally in all of these? Do you feel overcommitted and scattered? Why might this be? Are their solutions?