

## **The Freedom of the Spirit**

Acts 16:16-34

October 11, 2026

Small Group Questions

This Sunday we continued a sermon series entitled “*Empowered to Bear Witness to Jesus’ Kingdom.*” This series focuses on how the risen and ascended Jesus empowers his disciples for mission through the gift of the outpoured Holy Spirit.

### **Small Group Questions**

**1. Observe. Read Acts 16:16–24** What do you notice about the slave girl, her owners, Paul and Silas, and the city authorities? What does each character seem to want, and who has power over whom?

**2. In verses 16–18, Paul commands the spirit to leave the slave girl in the name of Jesus Christ. What changes as a result, and what remains unchanged? What might Luke want us to notice about the limits of her liberation? What does the girl's deliverance reveal?**

**3. Read verses 22–28. How do Paul and Silas respond to their suffering and mistreatment? What is surprising about Paul and Silas's behaviour in prison? How do the earthquake and the prisoners' open doors change the situation, and how do Paul and Silas respond?**

**4. What does this passage teach us about true freedom? Paul and Silas are physically confined, yet they worship and serve others. How might this story challenge common ideas of freedom at play on our culture? How does it shape your understanding of freedom in Christ?**

**5. Read verses 27–34. What does freedom make possible for others? What do Paul and Silas do for the jailer? How does their concern for him shape the outcome of the**

**story? What does this suggest about the relationship between Christian freedom and love for others?**

As a follow up (if you have time): **What might it look like to use our freedom, resources, influence, or time for someone else's flourishing?**

**6. Where might the Spirit be forming this freedom in us? Looking across the whole passage, where do you see a contrast between bondage and freedom? Where might Jesus be inviting you or our church community to grow in freedom that leads to love, courage, or action for justice?**

**Close in prayer.**