



## Day 4 - Invite People to Church

Have you been inviting people to attend church? The word for “church” in the Bible means “the called out ones.” It does not mean a church building. Today we are here gathered in Jesus’ name to worship Him, to encourage one another in the faith, to listen to Him speak to us through His word and to obey what He tells us to do.

One of the early churches the Bible was in the city of Philippi. Let’s look at how that church get started In Acts 16:11-15, 16-24. 25-34. As you read this, look for the main three people whose lives were changed because of the things they heard and believed about Jesus.

The three main characters in this story whose lives were changed were Lydia, the slave girl, and the jailor. A relationship with Jesus Christ dramatically changed the lives of these three people. If you lived in those days, which life story among the three would you most liked to hear? And why?

As you think about this story, some of the things we see in Paul and Silas’s lives are:

- Victory over Satan’s power - the evil spirit left the slave girl (v. 16-18)
- Rejoicing even in times of trials - even in prison (v. 25)
- Being able to tell others about Jesus clearly and simply (v. 30-32)

Which one of these would you like to see more of in your life? Why?

Pray: Think of some people you know that are like Lydia, the slave girl or the jailor that you would like to bring to church. How can you pray for them?

Go: Look for opportunities to reach out to others to share the love of Christ with them. Share with others what God has done in your life.

### **Acts of the Apostles 16:11-34 NLT**

11 We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day we landed at Neapolis. 12 From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days.

13 On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. 14 One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. 15 She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed.

#### **Paul and Silas in Prison**

16 One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved."

18 This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her.

19 Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. 20 "The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted to the city officials. 21 "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice."

22 A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. 23 They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. 24 So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. 26 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! 27 The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the

prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. 28 But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

29 The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." 32 And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. 33 Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. 34 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.

This reading plan can be found at <https://my.bible.com/en-GB/reading-plans/721-making-your-faith-public>