



Small Group Discussion Guide

ICE BREAKER: The last Tuesday in January is “National Plan for Vacation Day,” where Americans are to plan their vacation days for the rest of the year. How will you celebrate?

INSTRUCTIONS: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 1 & 4.

1. As Pastor Nate unwrapped this story about Silas, he talked about faithfulness. How do you describe faithfulness? Have you looked at it in a reactive way (“I’m faithful because I don’t _____.”)? Why is this an incomplete picture? Pastor Nate clarified faithfulness when he said it’s “about following Jesus in proactive relationship.” What does it look like to be proactive in your relationship with Jesus? How is this beneficial for you? How might it benefit those around you?
2. “Focus on Jesus and faithfulness will follow.” Pastor Nate explained that this was why Silas and Paul were able to sing. Not because they ignored their circumstances, but because they focused on Jesus. Is it hard to focus on Jesus during challenging circumstances? If so, why? What are the benefits of focusing on Jesus when life is hard? Have you experienced a time when you kept focused on Christ when life was difficult? What was the outcome? How has it helped you when you’ve encountered similar situations? Explain.
3. Read Acts 16:35-39. As Roman Citizens, Paul and Silas should not have been beaten or imprisoned without a trial. They knew this, yet allowed it to happen. What reasons might have caused them to allow this? How did their choice to not speak up demonstrate their faithfulness? Have you ever allowed unjust or unfair circumstances to unfold knowing it didn’t have to be that way? Describe. What was the outcome?
4. While Paul and Silas were literally freed from their chains, the real person in chains was the jailer. Read Acts 16:25-34. How did the jailer’s chains manifest themselves? What did he need to do to be set free? How does taking a next step help set us free/break chains we encounter? What next steps have you been taking in the New Year? How might your group support you in living faithfully? Take time to pray in groups of 2-3 about your next step, asking God to help you live a faithful life.

Personal Guide for Week of January 28th

DAY 1 - Read Matthew 25:1-13. How did the bridesmaids differ in their focus?

DAY 2 - Read Matthew 25:14-30. How did each servant demonstrate faithfulness?

DAY 3 - Read Colossians 3:1-4. How can you experience true life?

DAY 4 - Read Psalm 107. How does God rescue/free His people? What is our part before and after we are rescued/set free?

DAY 5 - Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What helps us finish the race set before us? How does this demonstrate faithfulness?



Message Notes & Small Group Discussion // Personal Guides

“So-So Silas”

Week of January 28, 2018



“Nothing Ordinary: So-So Silas”
[Nate Sickler, Small Groups Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

When’s the last time your day didn’t go according to plan?

“The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!” they shouted to the city officials. “They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice.”

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

(Acts 16:20-24 NLT)

When life doesn’t go according to plan our _____ gets tested.

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. *(Acts 16:25 NLT)*

I have written and sent this short letter to you with the help of Silas, whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. *(1 Peter 5:12a NLT)*

Faithfulness...

...is not just _____.

Faithfulness=doesn’t _____

...is about _____ Jesus in _____ relationship.

(Note Matthew 25:14-30)

_____ on Jesus and faithfulness will _____.

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)*

Faithfulness is about _____ your _____.

(Acts 16:27-31a NLT)

Because God doesn’t make anything or anyone ordinary:

We can _____ faithful _____.



“Nothing Ordinary: So-So Silas”
[Nate Sickler, Small Groups Pastor]

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...is not just reactive.

Faithfulness=doesn’t cheat

...is about following Jesus in proactive relationship.

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Focus on Jesus and faithfulness will follow.

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)*

Faithfulness is about taking your next step. *(Acts 16:27-31a NLT)*

Because God doesn't make anything or anyone ordinary:

We can live faithful lives.