

## Series: Centrifugal Faith

### Scripture and Background Information for November 15-21.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Luke tells us about the beginning of the church. He reports how the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ motivated believers to proclaim the gospel. Starting from Jerusalem, the gospel spread to the neighboring cities and even to Europe. Luke focuses on how the Holy Spirit empowered believers to be Christ's witnesses, even in times of opposition.

#### **Background for Acts 16:25-35:**

Paul and Silas went on a second missionary journey. They came to Europe, where many people heard and followed Christ's message of salvation. Even demon-possessed people were set free by the power of the gospel (Acts 16:16-18). Some welcomed Christ's message, but others rejected it. Due to the gospel's proclamation and the healing of demon-possessed people, Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into jail (Acts 17:19-24). The circumstances of the prison did not hinder Paul and Silas from praising God. The love for Christ, his resurrection, and their new hope gave them a new perspective on life. Both praised God during the night in prison. After a great earthquake, all the prison doors were opened. Nevertheless, not one of the prisoners escaped, which led to the conversion of the jailer.

Some tools to engage with the text:

1. Paul and Silas's reaction to their circumstances seems unfit for their situation. What does their reaction tell us about real joy? Where does real joy come from?
2. When reading the text, what do you think caused all the prisoners to stay in their cells after the doors were opened? What do you think motivated the jailer to his reaction? (17:30)
3. What does the text reveal about the necessity of salvation? In that context, what does the text not tell us about the jailer's family and their salvation?

*Notice: Paul and Silas' thankfulness toward God in hardship seemed to impress those around them. Difficulties give us a chance to show from the outside that what we believe from the inside!*

#### **Scriptures for upcoming weeks:**

November 22-28	Acts 17
November 29-December 05	Acts 28