

**Ice Breaker:**

What do you think of when you hear the word “revival”?

**Groups Discussion Questions:**

In the beginning of the message, Eric mentioned some of the moments when the church has experienced rapid expansion in the last 300 years. Did you know there were so many?

In your estimation, how many people did Christianity start with?

Have you ever taken the time to marvel at the fact that it has spread around the world and continues to spread even after 2000 years? What does that tell you?

What were some of the misunderstandings that God had to correct in the minds of the disciples at the beginning of Christianity, regarding who Jesus was for? (Read Acts 10 if you need some help on this one)

Do you ever find yourself thinking the church is only for some people?

Who would you consider the least likely to come to know Jesus?

Read the following passage from Acts 16

**Paul and Silas in Prison**

**16** Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. **17** She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” **18** She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

**19** When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. **20** They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar **21** by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

**22** The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. **23** After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. **24** When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

**25** About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. **26** Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. **27** The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. **28** But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

**29** The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. **30** He then 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—you and your household."

**32** Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. **33** At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. **34** The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

**35** When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men." **36** The jailer told Paul, "The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace."

Why were Paul and Silas thrown in prison?

What was their attitude while in prison?

Were they "acting" like everything was okay or were they truly trusting God and giving him the worship He is due no matter their circumstances.

What can you learn from the way they carried themselves and apply to your everyday life? Be specific.

In the Message, we said that the church expands when we believe the impossible. Do you agree?

Can God free someone from a prison cell today?

Paul used every opportunity to proclaim the gospel. In Acts 17, he even used a place for idol worship. What did he do?

Eric said that we should look at the wrong going on in the world today, just like the idol worship in Paul's day, and use it as a chance to share Jesus.

He said that the wrong behavior is a cry for help.

What is happening today that is exposing a need or wound in society that only Jesus can meet?

### **Real Steps to Expand the Message:**

Think of a negative behavior you see happening. A “movement” of the evil one.

Now look closer at it. Why are people flocking to this false religion?

What need do they have that they think will be fixed this way?

How is Jesus the real answer for that need?

How can you show that?

### **Prayer Requests**

### **Digging Deeper:**

### **Read this passage:**

#### **Acts 17**

**22** Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. **23** For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

**24** “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. **25** And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. **26** From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. **27** God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. **28** ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

**In Him we live.**

Read Acts 17:25 along with Psalm 36:9, Genesis 2:7  
What does this tell us about everything we have?

Read John 6:33, Colossians 2:6-15 and Romans 6:3-11.  
What kind of life do we have in Jesus?

**In Him we move.**

Read Psalm 68:35 and Isaiah 40:29-31  
Where does our strength come from?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:14, 1 John 4:8 and 1 Corinthians 10:31  
How do we move in Him?

**In Him we have our being.**

Read Ecclesiastes 5:19 and Romans 6:23  
To what do we owe our existence?  
What comes to mind when you read Hebrews 1:3 and Colossians 1:16-17?

How do these scriptures speak into your life today?