

w/b 10th June 2018 THEME: TRIAL & HOPE

LIFE APPLICATION

Passage: Acts 16:16-40

LAUNCH

Describe a recent difficult situation in your life? What was it and how did you respond? What were the good and not so good elements of your response?

DISCOVERY

- Why did Paul delay before casting out the demon in the slave girl? (There are a number of possible answers)
- Why were the owners so hacked off with Paul?
- Why did they drag Paul & Silas in front of the magistrates using a different set of accusations?
- Can we find ourselves giving false reasons to justify our own behaviour and make ourselves look less selfish? Give an example from your own life.
- What lessons can we learn from this incident about the advance of the kingdom and how the enemy chooses to fight back?
- Why did Paul and Silas respond so joyfully in the face of such hardship? Is there a way in which we should be learning to do the same or are we just 'soft' modern Christians destined to cope badly with setbacks?
- Read Romans 5:3-5. Do you agree? Share times when suffering has produced perseverance, character and hope in your lives.
- What were the key miraculous elements of the earthquake that shook the prison? Does God do the same today and if so what examples have you witnessed?
- According to verse 28 onwards what are some of the key features or elements of salvation? Which can we be in danger of overlooking or ignoring?

APPLICATION

- Pray for anyone facing trials or difficulties today that they will be able to remain joyful throughout.
- Pray for miraculous events that lead to salvation (circumstances, dreams, visions, prophecy and divine encounters)