

Sermon Discussion Guide

Unstoppable – Week 3

Singing in the Dark

April 25, 2021

Big Idea

The church is unstoppable in the face of persecution because we pray and sing in the dark.

Icebreaker

How often do you sing? Are you a good singer? Have you received complaints?

Discussion Questions

1. We have been challenged to read 28 chapters of Acts across 28 days and write one observation from each chapter. What is one of your observations from this week? (Acts 15-21 this week, starting Sunday.)
2. Read **Acts 16:16-18**. The spirit in the female slave acknowledged God's power, but Paul's concern was that it would promote the idea that God was one of many gods the Greeks believed in. Why is it crucial to Christian theology that there is only one God?
3. Read **Acts 16:23-24**. "Stocks" here is the Greek word *xylon*, meaning "that which is made of wood." It is only used three other times in Acts (5:30, 10:39, 13:29), as "cross" in those instances. What does this tell us about the persecuted church? How can that give hope?
4. Read **Acts 16:25**. Even in the midst of pain from being beaten with rods and restrained by uncomfortable shackles, Paul and Silas still prayed and sang praises. Does music help you during dark times? How can we still praise through our pain?
5. Read **Acts 16:26-29**. The jailer heard the prayers and praise of the believers and received mercy from them, leading to his salvation. Whose example of a Christ-like attitude and behavior helped lead you to salvation? Who in your life can you be that example for?

Concluding Questions

Read **Matthew 5:10**. Christians are the most globally persecuted religious group today. What stories have you heard of such persecution? How can your group pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters?

Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Beyond prayer for each other, is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer

Possible prayer topics for this week:

- The global persecuted church
- Praise during pain
- Authentic worship
- Introducing others to Christ