

# EMPOWERED

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

## Empowered Part 8 – Prison Break Pastor Joseph Zwanziger 10.9.2022

### USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

### **[Acta 6:16-34, ESV]**

<sup>16</sup> As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. <sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. <sup>20</sup> And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. <sup>21</sup> They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. <sup>24</sup> Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup> and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And

immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

**UNLESS YOU LEARN THIS LESSON, you cannot live a successful life as a Christ-follower.**

### **1. Praise is a CHOICE!**

**It isn't something you wait for... it's something you DO. Praise isn't just a song you sing, but a weapon you WIELD.**

#### **[2 Corinthians 10:4, NKJV]**

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.

Chains = ANYTHING that holds you back from living in freedom in God.

#### **[Isaiah 61:1;3, NKJV]**

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>3</sup> To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

***Don't wear heaviness, put on praise!***

#### **[Psalm 2:3, ESV]**

You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

***God doesn't put us in prison seasons, but He'll use them to teach us, mature us, and solidify in us lessons that will show us and others the power of God.***

## **2. Your faith-filled praise doesn't just affect your world but the world around you**

***Being in a prison with Jesus is better than being outside without him!***

### **[Psalm 150:1-6, ESV]**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! <sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! <sup>5</sup> Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! <sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

### **1. Praise is a CHOICE!**

## **2. Your faith-filled praise doesn't just affect your world but the world around you**

### **FOR MONDAY—**

1. Take time to worship Jesus, believing for new levels of faith and freedom for you personally, for your family, and for your city.
2. If you haven't attended Life Change, visit [www.tfh.org/lifechange](http://www.tfh.org/lifechange) for details and sign up this week!

### **TALK IT THROUGH**

1. What do you do when you're going about life and out of nowhere you find yourself in a "prison" (relationship went sideways, financial struggles, a diagnosis, or spiritual attack)?
2. How does the book of Acts demonstrate the reality of spiritual warfare?
3. What are the "chains" that hold you back today?
4. What does perseverance with your praise look like? What were some of the circumstances you overcame through praise?
5. What happens when we lift a song of praise in difficult situations? How does praise impact others around us?
6. In your life, who models a life of praise, enthroning God with his or her confession? What have you seen God do in that person's life and in the lives of those in proximity?
7. On a global scale, how can the praise of empowered believers influence society?

