



Small Group Discussion Guide: Your Midnight Hour

Series: Finding God in the Hard Places – Week 1

Title of the Sermon: Your Midnight Hour

Main Text: Acts 16:16–34

Introduction

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there's no need to go through them all. To learn more, visit silverdalebc.com/smallgroups.

Icebreaker Options

- In an ideal world, what time would you go to bed and what time would you wake up?
- What is the perfect thermostat temperature in your home for a good sleep?

The REASONS For Your Midnight Hour

1. Spiritual Harassment

Key Scripture:

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. 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." – Acts 16:16-17

Discuss:

- How do spiritual battles and opposition most often show up in your life today?

Leader's Note:

Spiritual warfare is real, but Jesus is stronger. Paul cast out the demon in Jesus' name—a reminder that no spiritual darkness can overpower the light of Christ.

2. Unjust Accusations

Key Scripture:

"When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace..." – Acts 16:19–20

Discuss:

- What truths about God help you stay grounded when life feels unfair?

Leader's Note:

Following Jesus doesn't exempt us from injustice. Sometimes obedience leads us into difficulty—but God is still present and working, even in the unfair moments.

3. Physical Pain and Punishment

Key Scripture:

"After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison... and fastened their feet in the stocks." – Acts 16:23–24

Discuss:

- How does suffering refine or reveal our faith?
- What's one way you've seen God use hardship to deepen your walk with Him?

Leader's Note:

Paul and Silas faced real suffering, yet God used it as part of their mission. Our pain doesn't have to be wasted—God can use it to strengthen us and bring hope to others.

The RESPONSE To Your Midnight Hour

1. Turn to the Lord in Prayer

Key Scripture:

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praises to God” – Acts 16:25

Discuss:

- Why do you think prayer often becomes our last resort instead of our first response?
- How does prayer change our perspective, even if circumstances don’t immediately change?

Leader’s Note:

Prayer brings peace because it shifts the weight from our shoulders to God’s. As Paul wrote later, “The peace of God... will guard your hearts and minds” (Phil. 4:6–7).

2. Choose to Exercise Praise

Key Scripture:

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God...” – Acts 16:25

Discuss:

- Why is praising God during hardship so powerful?
- How might your worship influence others who are “listening” to your life?

Leader’s Note:

Praising God in pain is not denial—it’s declaration. When we praise, we remind ourselves (and others) that God is greater than our circumstances.

3. Rest in God's Liberty and Freedom

Key Scripture:

"Suddenly there was a violent earthquake... all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose." – Acts 16:26

Discuss:

- Why do you think Paul and Silas didn't run when the doors opened? What does this reveal about what Paul and Silas knew true freedom to be?

Leader's Note:

Freedom in Christ isn't just physical—it's internal. Even when we're still in difficult places, God can set our hearts free from fear, bitterness, and despair.

4. Share God's Peace with Others

Key Scripture:

"The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas... 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'" – Acts 16:29–30

Discuss:

- How does your response to hardship open doors to share Christ with others?
- What does this passage teach about the simplicity and power of salvation?

Leader's Note:

Paul's witness in suffering led to the jailer's salvation. God can use your darkest moments as a spotlight for His grace.

Closing Prayer

Invite your group to pray for those walking through a "midnight hour." Ask God to give strength, peace, and renewed faith. Pray for boldness to share hope with others who need the light of Christ.