



# ADVANCE CHURCH NETWORK NORTH CAROLINA

## Cohort Conversations

### Week of April 8, 2026: Pastoral Encouragement – Perseverance

**Connect** – What's is something you are encouraged by this Easter season?

**Scripture Texts**—Acts 16:11-24

**Pray**— Read and pray through Acts 16:11-24 for 15-20 minutes popcorn style, while being sensitive to how the Spirit leads. Here's a way to break it down:

Upward Reverence (vv. 11-24) Why is God worthy of praise from this passage? Praise Him for who He is, a God who sovereignly saves and even works during suffering.

Downward Response (vv. 11-24) Respond to who God is in this text. Pray that we would trust God's sovereign hand and hope in Him even as times in life and ministry might swing from the highest highs to the lowest lows.

Inward Requests (vv. 11-24) Pray for each other. Pray that those suffering or discouraged in life and ministry would find comfort knowing God is still sovereign and still near.

Outward Readiness (vv. 11-24) Ask God to give us hearts ready to be faithful to the mission and ready to endure even if that mission brings hardships.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What did God's will lead Paul & Silas to see in verses 11-15? How might that have encouraged them in their mission?
- What did God's will lead them to in verses 16-24? How might that have discouraged them in their mission?
- Following God's will in ministry had led them to seeing souls saved, like Lydia, and to hardships like being thrown in prison. Why can we not trust our immediate circumstances in life and ministry to know if we are being faithful to God or if God is being faithful to us?
- How can knowing that suffering may (or more accurately, will) be God's will for us in ministry prepare us for it and encourage us in it?

### **Application**

- What are some things that you are currently encouraged about in the ministry?
- What are some things that currently discourage you in life and ministry?
- Pray for each other for perseverance through the seasons of suffering.



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