



The American church is struggling. The culture has become hostile toward Christianity. Financially we are not as secure as we used to be. And many people view the church as irrelevant. Yet the answer is not some new program or improved way of doing ministry – we need revival! We desperately need to experience the power and presence of God. In the book of Acts we learn that the only way for this to happen is by depending upon God together in prayer. So, if you're ready for a fresh encounter with God, come learn to pray together and expect him to do great things.

**Discussion Questions:** (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. What difficult trial are you presently facing?
  
2. Read Acts 16:16-40. Why were Paul and Silas in jail? What was their physical condition? How did they respond to this trial? What were the results?
  
3. Why do you think praising God was the key to their deliverance?
  
4. When you choose to praise the Lord in adversity, God transforms you. Praising the Lord in adversity...
  - surrenders control to the Sovereign Lord.
  - leads you into God's presence.
  - delivers you from the prison of despair.
  - fuels your witness for Christ and his kingdom.
  - enables you to encourage others in the Lord.Have you ever experienced any of these transformations in adversity? Explain.
  
5. Thinking about the difficult situation you are facing, what great things might God do in and through you if you handled adversity the way Paul and Silas did?
  
6. How is praising God in adversity really faith in the gospel applied to your situation? Will you decide today, with the Lord's help, to praise him whenever you face a trial? Take time now to praise God for who he is and what he has done.