

The God of Open Doors

Jan. 7, 2023 | Acts 16:6-40 | Church on the Move | Pastor Michael Foster

Notes on the text:

Some observations about open doors:

- God alone has the power to close and open doors
- Open doors often come right after closed doors
- Open doors never contradict God's Word or character
- God doesn't push us through open doors - we have to walk through them
- An open door does not mean an easy path
- Open doors are ultimately for furthering the gospel
- Jesus is the open door to God and his resurrection is the ultimate open door

In 2024...

Pray for, look for, and walk through open doors!

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Can you relate to Paul's experience in Acts 16 of God closing doors in order to direct you to an open door? Explain.
3. Read Acts 16:14. Can you relate to Lydia's experience of the Lord opening her heart? Explain.
4. What do observe about Lydia's hospitality throughout Acts 16 (see vv. 15 and 40). How might you open your door like Lydia in 2024 to bless and serve others? What first step could you take?
5. Read Acts 16:22-24. What are some emotions Paul and Silas might be experiencing as they are persecuted?
6. Read v. 25 and imagine being one of the other prisoners at Philippi listening to Paul and Silas. What might you be thinking or feeling in that situation?
7. Read vv. 29-31. In what ways are we tempted to add more to the gospel than Paul and Silas did? What can we learn from their simple response to the jailer's question? How does their response map to other verses of Scripture?
8. We see two households baptized in Acts 16. What can we learn from these baptisms about the priority and blessing of baptism? Consider how long they waited to be baptized and how much they knew about Jesus when they were baptized. Is there anything keeping you from being baptized soon?
9. What is one door you are asking God to open for you in this year? Who is one person you'd like to see open their heart to the Lord this year?
10. Read Colossians 4:2-4. Spend some time praying together for God to open doors for his gospel in your relationships, community, and world.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Read these verses about open doors: Acts 5:19, Acts 12:6-10, Acts 14:27, 1 Corinthians 16:9, 2 Corinthians 2:12, Colossians 4:2-4, Revelation 3:8

Memorize Colossians 4:2-4

Listen to "Praise Opens Prison Doors" - <https://bit.ly/prisondoors>

Listen to "Believe for It" - <https://bit.ly/believeforitsong>

Read more about how God opens doors for ministry

- <https://bit.ly/ministrydoors>

Read "Don't Ignore Open Doors"

- <https://bit.ly/dontignoreopendoors>

Read about how to discern an open door

- <https://bit.ly/discernopendoor>

Read *Detours* by Tony Evans

