

# The Holy Spirit - Week 3

**Ice-breaker.** In small groups: how do you like to make decisions? Are you a thinker or a feeler? Do you have a preference for objective principles, impersonal facts or for personal concerns and people? How easy is it for you to do something because it's good or true, even if you don't feel like it?

**Reflect:** We live in a world that tells us to put ourselves first, but worship reminds us it's not just about us. We were made to magnify, amplify and mirror our Creator.' Mattt & Beth Redman

**Read** Acts 16:16-40

A series of unjust events leads to Paul and Silas being placed in prison. They are stripped, beaten with rods and have their feet placed in stocks - and from there they praise.

**Discuss:** How would you feel in Paul and Silas's position? Would worship come easily to you?

Why do you think Paul and Silas worshipped in prison?

What impact do you think Paul and Silas's singing had on the jailer?

**Respond:** As we turn ourselves to worship, we can often make it a moment about us; are we in the mood to give praise to God? Are we more focussed on life's frustrations than its opportunities? Rather than giving God glory, we can make the process about our feelings, our dealings and our failings.

**Discuss:**

Where are you facing hardship or frustration?

What would it look like for you to be able to worship in that place like Paul and Silas did?

What would it look like to seek the presence of God more actively in your day?

How can worship play a part in that?

**Respond:** Spend some time in worship, whether listening to a song, giving God thanks or praying for His help.

**Pray:** Lord, I pray for more of Your Spirit in my life. I know that my sin can grieve and diminish the voice of the Spirit in my life and inhibit His work in me, and I pray against the temptation to sin. Help me in my humanity, in my tendency to give in to frustration, to lose sight of Your power, to not lean on Your help, to woe rather than to worship!

Help me crave your presence more than I crave sin. Help me grow in the fruit of the Spirit and so walk closer with You.

I pray for guidance from your Spirit- let your will and promises always be a meditation of my heart.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.