

NewSpring Church Groups Study Guide

Hope: When Life Hurts Most — Week 2 — It's Midnight, Now What?

INTRO

In *John 16:33*, Jesus says that troubles are inevitable. When they come, will they amplify our life's message or snuff it out? We can become focused on ourselves and our pain, or we can use these times to share the peace and hope we have found in Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

- What has God asked you to focus on specifically in your life? In other words, what is your purpose?
- What are the frustrations in your life that have challenged your focus as a believer?
- Read *Acts 16:19-23*. Despite doing everything they were supposed to do, Paul and Silas were beaten and jailed. How do you think they kept from becoming bitter towards God?
- Does suffering tend to snuff out or amplify your life's message?
- Read *Acts 16:25-29*. How did God receive honor through Paul and Silas' faithfulness? Talk about a time when God was honored through your faithfulness.

OUTRO

In *2 Timothy 1:11-12*, Paul says, "And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day."

Despite hard times, we can be confident in the hope we have in Christ. In good times and in bad we can use our circumstances to point others to God.