

Acts: O Church, Arise!
July 19th, 2026 — Acts 16:11-40
When God Opens Doors in Difficult Places
Sermon by Rex Metcalf

Big Idea: God often does His greatest work through open hearts, closed doors, painful trials, and faithful witnesses.

1. God Opens _____ Through _____ Witnesses (vv.11-15)
2. _____ Opposes the _____ of God (vv. 16-18)
3. Faithfulness Does Not _____ Us From _____ (vv. 19-24)
4. Worship _____ the _____ (v. 25)
5. God Can _____ Foundations in a _____ (vv. 26-34)
6. God Uses _____ to _____ the Gospel (vv. 35-40)

Conclusion / Challenge

Reflections
Acts 16:11-40

Interpretation Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Acts 16:14 says “the Lord opened” Lydia’s heart. What does this teach us about salvation?
2. Why do you think spiritual opposition increased after people began responding to the Gospel?
3. What can we learn from Paul and Silas choosing worship instead of bitterness?
4. Why do you think the other prisoners were listening so carefully to Paul and Silas?
5. What does the jailer’s conversion teach us about God’s grace?

Application Questions

1. Who in your life may need you to faithfully share the Gospel with them?
2. What “prison” or difficult circumstance are you facing right now?
3. How do you usually respond when life feels unfair?
4. What would it look like to worship God in the middle of hardship?
5. Have you ever seen God use suffering for a greater purpose later on?
6. In what ways can your response to adversity become a witness to others?

Next Week: Acts 17:1 – 9