



It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will quite often talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

1 Peter 4:12-19

Everyone, including God's people, face darkness at times. No matter how we get into these situations, the important thing is how we conduct our lives through it. The choice is ours. Will we respond in faith, rejoicing and praising God like Paul and Silas did in Acts 16, or will we respond negatively?

When I focus on trying to BREAK OUT...

1. God is wanting to BREAK THROUGH my SELFISHNESS.
Who should we model ourselves after as an example of selflessness?
Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 2:5-11; Acts 16:22-30
2. God is wanting to BREAK UP my SHALLOW LIVING.
Discuss how God's Word instructs us to overcome shallowness by the way we act towards others.
1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Philippians 2:3-4
3. God is wanting to BREAK DOWN my SINFUL CHARACTER.
Why is it important that we do not fall back into sin when we go through dark times?
John 15:8; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 4:11-19

Three Keys When the Lights Go Out...

1. RECOGNIZE it.
James 1:17 says "God is the Father of Light" and *1 John 1:5* says "there is no darkness in Him". Discuss how we can recognize the source of darkness.
2. REJOICE in it.
How is it possible to rejoice when going through a dark time?
James 1: 2-7; John 16:33; Nehemiah 8:10
3. Do what's RIGHT – no matter what.
Discuss some 'right things' to do when going through a dark time.
Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:10-18

What's Next

- Ask God to forgive you of selfishness, shallow living and sinfulness.
- Begin to serve God and others out of a pure heart. Don't be religious.
- Make a commitment to live joyfully in spite of life's challenges.
- Let the words of our mouth and thoughts of our heart be acceptable to God.