Lesson Thirteen: Paul and Silas

Strengthening the churches (read verses 15:36 – 16:5)

1)	Why did Paul return to churches he had already founded?	What did he do there and why were those things
	important? (15:41; 16:4-5)?	

Philippi (read verses 16:6-40)

- 2) In what sense is the Holy Spirit "the Spirit of Jesus" helping guide your decisions (16:7)? What does this phrase tell you about the nature of God?
- 3) Why was it necessary for God to open Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message (16:14)? What significance does this fact have for you personally in your evangelism and in your prayers?
- 4) Bloody and battered in the stocks of a lightless prison, Paul and Silas spent the night "praying and singing hymns to God" (16:25). Why do you think they did this? What attitudes toward self, God, circumstances, other prisoners, and the jailer did these actions show?
- 5) How did Paul and Silas deal with the Roman officials in Philippi (16:35-39)? Why do you think they didn't just leave submissively? What principles for dealing with authority do their actions suggest?

Thessalonica (read verses 17:1-9)

- 6) In response to the gospel, Lydia and Jason both invited the missionaries to stay in their homes (16:15; 17:7)). What kinds of trouble and expense were they risking by doing this (16:20-22; 17:5-9)?
- 7) What can Lydia and Jason teach us about Christian fellowship/partnership?

Berea (read verses 17:10-15)

- 8) How did the Berean Jews respond differently to Paul's message than the Thessalonian Jews did (17:5, 11)?
- 9) Why was the Bereans' reaction the better way to deal with a new and startling teaching?

Y	our Response: (consider doing one or more of these activities this week)	
✓	✓ Does God ever guide you by closing doors (see 16:6) or by direct leading (see 16:9)? If so, name	
	example or two. If not, how does He guide you, if at all?	
✓	How do you normally respond to persecution or pain? How could you adopt Paul and Silas's response	
•	and attitudes (see 16:23-25)? Look and pray for a specific chance to do this.	
✓	How can you imitate the Bereans' response to new teachings you may encounter?	