

Small Group Questions: Purpose in the Prison

Series: I'm Fine (Not Really)

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Read

Acts 16: 9–30; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 22:3; and Revelation 12:11

Reflect

Paul and Silas were put in prison for preaching God's Word and carrying out the great commission of Jesus. But prisons aren't always physical buildings. We may have built our own inner prisons through any number of different addictions that stem from pain and fear. Are you thriving or just surviving? Do you believe God never gives up on you?

Guest speaker Jimmy Rollins highlights four ways we can find purpose and freedom from our prisons.

1. Lean into the pain.

- a. What is your inner prison? Are you showing a counterfeit version of yourself?
- b. When have you won at the wrong thing, and lost at the right thing?
- c. How has pain taught you important lessons?

2. Lean into people.

- a. Silas and Paul were together in prison. How did this help them?
- b. Braided cords are stronger. Who in your life is committed to standing with you? Are you being open with them about what's really going on in your life?

3. Lean into his presence.

- a. What ways are easiest and hardest for you to lean into God's presence? Worship and praise? Prayer? Acknowledging your weaknesses before God and/or others?
 - i. How does it change the atmosphere?
- b. In the past, when you have taken a step toward Jesus, how has he made up the distance between you?

4. Lean into his purpose.

- a. How has God shown you that your pain serves a bigger purpose?
- b. How willing are you to tell your story to help someone else? What might be holding you back?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?