



Detour to Your Dream

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Focus Sometimes, our life dreams get detoured. When they do, God uses those times to work out selfishness, get rid of a religious spirit in us, or grow our character. The key is to turn to God in prayer and worship in times when our dreams get detoured.

Fun What do you do that is life-giving for you? How do you recharge your batteries when you feel drained?

Review Key Scriptures: Acts 16:16–26

- Even God-given dreams can get detoured. Paul knew God had called him to minister, yet after responding to the dream God gave him, he ended up in a prison. Sometimes we find ourselves in a prison or in a dark season where our dreams are on a detour.
- It is during those times when we feel like we're in a prison that God is working on and deepening our character. During those times, God will often confront our own selfishness and even challenge shallow living or a religious spirit.
- While in prison, Paul and Silas began to lean on God and worship. When we are in dark times, the key is for us to pray and worship God. Only when we cry out to God and worship will we find freedom because true freedom is not the absence of chains but the presence of God in our lives.

Group Dynamics Idea Sometimes the best way to develop new leaders is to actually give them an opportunity to lead the group. Think of a few people in your current group who might have leadership potential and give them the opportunity to lead all or part of a group meeting.

Afterward, meet with them to discuss how it went and give them feedback.

Discuss

1. Read Acts 16:16–26. How would you have felt if you were in that prison? What would have been your response to being chained in a prison?
2. Why do you think Paul and Silas chose to worship out loud at midnight in the prison?
3. Have you ever walked through a season where you felt like a God-given dream for your life was detoured? If so, share. What was the dream and how did it feel when it was detoured?
4. Can you think of a time God had to work out selfishness, challenge a religious spirit, or develop deeper character in your life? What was the experience and how did God use it to develop you?
5. Do you feel like God has ever given you dreams for your life? What are they? Where do you feel like those dreams are in process right now? Are any of them currently in a detour?
6. Why do you think worship is such a powerful thing? Why do you think worship is so important for us, especially when we are in a dark place in our lives?
7. Take time to break into smaller groups of three or four. As a response to this message, take time to pray for each other, especially for anyone who is going through a difficult time or who feels like their dream is on a detour.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Break out: Let God work in you during difficult times.
- Break in: In dark times, turn to God in prayer and worship.
- Break free: God's presence brings freedom.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for holding our lives in Your hands. Thank You for working deeply in us when we are in difficult seasons. Please take out selfishness or any religious spirit and build character in our life. Help us to turn to You in worship during difficult times. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip As a leader, you have a great impact on other people. Sometimes you may not realize what a difference you will make in the lives of the people in your group until years

later. It is important to keep on the forefront of your mind the difference you make. Remembering this will help you when you hit dry seasons, and it will give you purpose when you find yourself taking care of lots of little details that might otherwise feel mundane.