

### Getting To Know You

1. How has God been challenging your faith lately?
2. Have you ever experienced a miracle of protection? What happened?
3. Dillon Burroughs said, "Safety comes in our nearness to God, not in our distance from our enemies." & "God does not remove us from all harm; He uses harm to move us close to Him." Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
4. Warren Wiersbe said, "The safest place in all the world is in the will of God, and the safest protection in all the world is the name of God". Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
5. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### Digging Deeper

1. Why do you think it's sometimes hard to accept that God miraculously intervenes with protection? What do you think some of our common misconceptions might be about God's protection?
2. Long before you face a problem, God already has a plan. What are some examples of this from scripture? What about Noah? Jonah? Daniel? Israel? Disciples? Others? Did any of these surprise God's sovereignty? Explain.

What are some examples of this from your own life. How have you experienced God's hand of protection? Explain.

What problems and pain are you currently experiencing? What are some ways God could be working them together for your good?

3. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas are arrested and imprisoned, why did this happen? What were they doing? In addition to imprisonment what else did they experience? When did they begin to worship? Do you worship God before or after the miracle? What does your worship look like when things are not going as planned? When it is really difficult? When things are going as you think they should? When God has bestowed His blessings on you in ways you never imagined? Why should we worship even we don't feel like it? Explain.

How did God protect Paul and Silas? Did He do it in a way that they would automatically understand? Explain. In your life, what are some ways that God has protected that you didn't fully understand in the moment?

In addition to saving Paul and Silas, what else does God do? What was God's plan from the beginning? Do we always know what God is trying to accomplish? What can we learn from this text? How did God's eternal purpose not align with Paul & Silas' temporary plan? Can you relate? Explain.

4. Does God always protect us? Explain. Does He ever abandon us? How encouraging is it to know that even though God may not protect, He is with you during the experience or situation?

What are some other examples from scripture where God didn't protect in the way He could of, but never abandoned the individual/s in the situation? What can we learn from these situations. How can it build our faith?

5. What are you currently praying for protection from? How can your Bible Group pray with you about it? What is God trying to teach you through the process?

### Growing Closer

1. Who is someone you shared the gospel with this week?
2. What have you been reading in your quiet times?
3. What has God been teaching you?

### When Pigs Fly

#### The Miracle of Protection

Acts 16

#### 4 Guard Rails for this Series on Miracles...

1. We live in a broken world in need of God's miraculous hand
2. Miracles today may look different than those in the bible
3. All miracles should point us to Jesus
4. The greatest miracle of all is the new birth

Key Thought # 1 – “Long before you face a problem, God already has a plan.”

Key Thought #2 – “Nothing surprises Sovereignty!”

- I. Don't wait on worship until after the miracle
- II. God often protects us in ways we don't understand
- III. Sometimes God's eternal purposes don't align with our temporary plans

Key Thought #3 – “God never promises to always protect you. But He does promise to never leave you.”