

## **Prayers of Joy**

**Psalms 98:4, 2 Corinthians 4:7-9, Acts 16:22-34**

**November 25, 2018**

### **WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

1. We're about to start a holiday season traditionally described as joyful. How joyful is this season for you? Share the reason for your response.
2. What are some common things that threaten to steal your joy?
3. How does joy differ from happiness? How can you tell if you are joyful or just happy?
4. Why do you think Christians are typically associated with joy?

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. Pastor Jason describes joy as a form of resistance to despair. What does he mean by this? Is joy an active or passive resistance?
2. In the Acts 16 passage, how was it possible for Paul and Silas to experience and express joy?
3. Even though the narrative does not provide the aftermath, what might have happened to the jailer after he brought Paul and Silas out of the jail and into his home? What can we infer was his mindset?
4. Author Ingrid Fetell Lee says "Deep within us we have this impulse to seek out joy in our surroundings." Where do you seek out joy in your life?

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. How can joy co-exist with honesty about the darkness of the world around us?
2. In tough situations, how can we enter into joy even if you're not feeling it?
3. Share about an experience where you have seen joy. What were some of the outward signs?
4. How does experiencing joy allow you to love others who are going through difficult times?