

## Acts 16:25-34 CSB

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

[26] Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose.

[27] When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped.

[28] But Paul called out in a loud voice, "Don't harm yourself, because we're all here!"

[29] The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

[30] He escorted them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

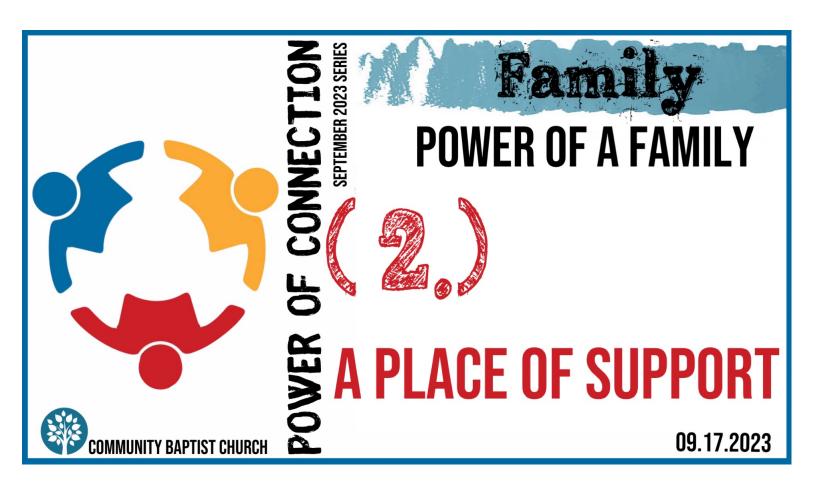
[31] They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-you and your household."

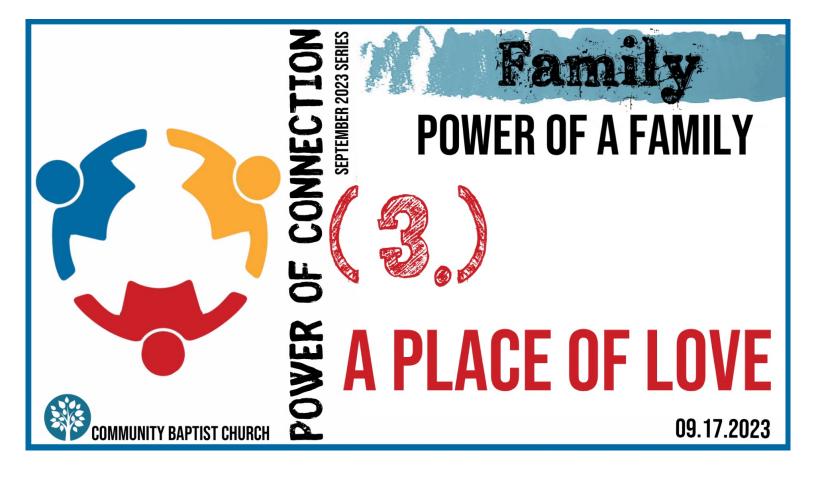
[32] And they spoke the word of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house.

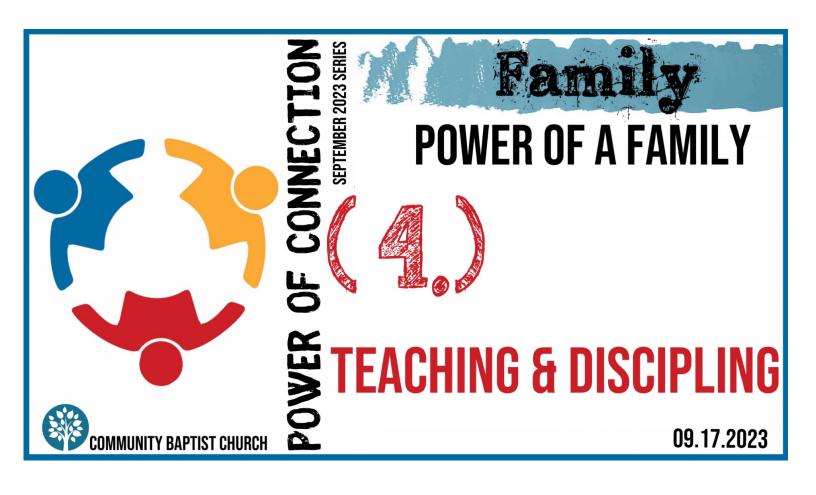
[33] He took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were baptized.

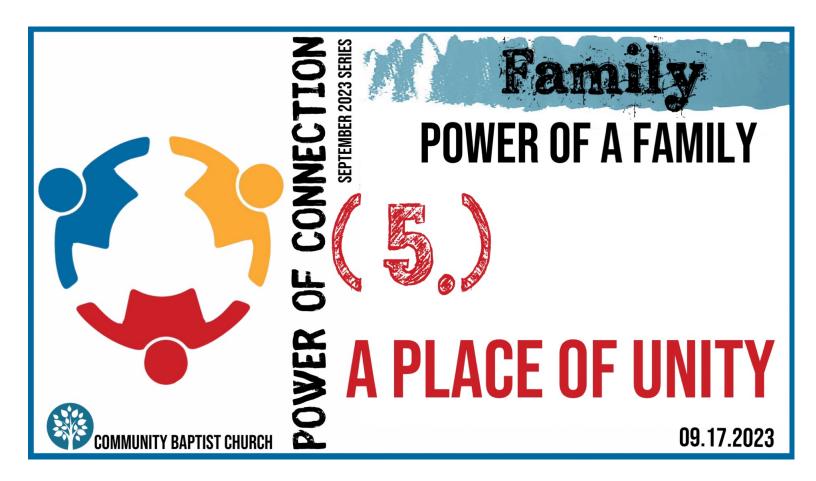
[34] He brought them into his house, set a meal before them, and rejoiced because he had come to believe in God with his entire household.











## Here is 5 things that can foster unity within our household.

<u>Read and Study the Bible together:</u> Make it a habit for family members to read and study the Bible individually and together. This can include daily devotionals, chapter readings, or specific Bible study plans.

<u>Family Prayer:</u> Dedicate time for family prayers, both for individual needs and intercession for others. Praying together can strengthen the family's spiritual bond.

<u>Attending Church:</u> Prioritize attending church services as a family to worship, fellowship with other believers, and receive biblical teaching.

<u>Scripture Memory:</u> Encourage family members, especially children, to memorize key Bible verses to internalize God's Word.

<u>Gratitude and Thankfulness:</u> Cultivate an attitude of gratitude and thankfulness in daily life, acknowledging God's blessings and provision.



Background: In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were on a missionary journey, spreading the message of Christ. They had come to the city of Philippi in Macedonia.

Arrest and Imprisonment: While in Philippi, Paul and Silas encountered a slave girl possessed by a spirit of divination. They cast out the spirit, which led to their arrest by the girl's owners, who had been making money from her fortune-telling abilities. The two apostles were accused of disturbing the city and promoting unlawful customs.

Imprisonment and Miraculous Event: Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into the inner prison, with their feet fastened in stocks. Despite their dire situation, they prayed and sang hymns to God. Suddenly, a great earthquake shook the prison, opening all the doors and loosening everyone's bonds.

Jailer's Fear: The jailer, upon seeing the prison doors open, assumed that the prisoners had escaped. Knowing that he would be held responsible and possibly killed for their escape, he drew his sword to take his own life.

Paul's Intervention: Paul cried out with a loud voice, telling the jailer not to harm himself, as all the prisoners were still there. This act of integrity and honesty on the part of Paul prevented the jailer from committing suicide.

Conversion of the Jailer: The jailer, deeply moved by the earthquake and Paul's actions, came trembling before Paul and Silas. He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" This question was an inquiry about salvation and eternal life.

The Gospel Shared: Paul and Silas shared the Gospel with the jailer and his household, explaining the message of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

Baptism: The jailer and his household believed in Jesus, and that same night, they were all baptized.

Hospitality: The jailer brought Paul and Silas into his house, set a meal before them, and rejoiced with his entire household, having come to faith in Christ.

Release of Paul and Silas: The next day, the magistrates sent officers to release Paul and Silas from prison, recognizing that they had been wrongly imprisoned.