

THE DIFFERENCE HOPE MAKES

HOPE: MUCH MORE THAN A WISH

- A confident favorable expectation
 1. Vital to life
- Our God personifies hope (***Romans 15:13 NIV***)
 1. He is the God of hope - no one does it better
 2. Wants us to have hope and a lot of it

HOPE IN THE DARK (*Acts 16:22-31 NIV*)

- Paul and Silas
 1. Were put into a painful dark situation
 2. But they responded in hope
- The jailer
 1. Believed he was in a bad situation
 2. He responded in despair
- The contrast: The jailer and Paul/Silas
 1. The jailer was in the dark with no hope
 2. Paul/Silas were in the dark with God
 3. In the end - God wins

GROWING IN HOPE: YOU CAN HAVE MORE

- Do not make big decisions in the dark
 1. Everything looks distorted and worse
 2. Time and Oreo's can solve a lot of things (***Psalms 30:5 NKJV***)
- Learn to pray and worship God in the light
 1. Easier when the light is on and life is not as traumatic
 2. Begin to develop spiritual muscle memory (***Hebrews 13:15 NKJV***)
- Feed hope into your life
 1. Hope will not grow looking at the darkness
 2. God's word is a hope infusion (***Romans 15:4 NIV***)