



HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 4: Oct 3-9

If you were starting a church in a new city, what would be the desired qualities of your first core group of people to help launch it? People who are movers and shakers? The highly intelligent? Those with charming personalities? Certainly those with sterling reputations in the community, right? These could be good traits to pursue, but they might also be too narrow in scope for God's boundary-crossing, barrier-breaking, transforming power.

This chapter of Acts broadens the scope of potential candidates well beyond what we might expect! The gospel, it turns out, is for all classes, backgrounds, and categories of people...even us.

MAIN TEXT: Acts 16:6-34

CONNECT

1. Think back on difficult times you've faced...and maybe you don't have to think back too far! What's your first response when things don't go your way?
2. How was this past week for you?

LEARN

3. Compare and contrast Lydia and the slave girl. What do they have in common and what separates them?
4. What do you notice from Paul and Silas' response to their public beating and imprisonment? What kind of attitude do they exhibit?
5. Try to put yourself in Paul and Silas' position. What else could they have done once the earthquake occurred? How does their actual response demonstrate great faith?
6. How would you describe the impact of the gospel on the relationship between Paul and Silas with the jailer (and even his household) before and after the earthquake?

APPLY

7. Three strikingly different people respond to the gospel in Philippi and begin to form the church there. If you're a follower of Jesus, how does your own story of coming to faith also

illustrate how God draws people of different backgrounds in different ways through the same gospel message of Jesus?

8. Like the jailer, it's possible to be in bondage but think you're free. Was there ever a time in your life prior to coming to faith where you thought you were "free" but were really enslaved in some way? If so, share your story with the group.

9. We all know that life's circumstances can be restrictive and difficult. What can we learn from Paul and Silas' example about our freedom to praise and worship God at all times?

10. What else did you find significant, challenging, or encouraging from this week's sermon?