



ACTS CHAPTER 16 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- Who is one of the most influential people in your life? What makes them influential and why do you choose to listen to them?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Acts 16:1-40)

Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Acts 16:1-10

- When considering Acts 16:1-2 & 2 Timothy 1:5, what is the significance of Timothy's mother and grandmother being mentioned?
 - Timothy's mother and grandmother intentionally invested in him and instilled within him a legacy of faith.
- Who would you say that you are intentionally investing in both inside and outside of your biological family to instill within them a legacy of faith? What do these investments look like?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.



- Notice that Paul, an older brother wanted Timothy, a younger brother to accompany him on his trips to share Jesus. During these trips, Paul mentored Timothy but Timothy also greatly encouraged and blessed Paul.
 - In what ways are you intentionally mentoring brothers and sisters that are younger than you?
 - In what ways are you intentionally allowing yourself to be mentored by brothers or sisters that are older than you?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- What do verses 6-8 say about who Paul was and his willingness to listen to God regardless if what God said made sense to him or not?
 - It is significant to note that the text never says anything about how the Spirit spoke to Paul. The reality is that Paul twice had plans to do something other than what God had planned and yet Paul was willing to change His plans based upon being led by what the Holy Spirit said. There was no arguing or pouting, just action aligned with the Holy Spirit's leading on his part.
 - How can you and I have an attitude similar to Paul when God lets us know that our plans are in no way His plans?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Acts 16:11-24

- What is the significance of Lydia being referenced as from the city of Thyatira and a seller of purple goods?
 - Thyatira was a Roman colony and there was a great pride that was taken in being a Roman citizen. In addition to this, the indication that she was a seller of purple goods meant that she was an extremely wealthy woman because



the purple dye was very costly. Both of these facts indicate a number of things about Lydia and the story of Jesus.

- Lydia's social and socioeconomic status were not her identity. The text also references that she was a worshipper of God indicating her willingness to listen and learn. She didn't allow what she had and/or what she did to get in the way of her pursuit of God and her willingness to follow Him.

- The story of Jesus is for all people and calls all people to a different way of life.

- What are some things in your life that get in the way of your pursuit of God? What do you do about it?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- Do you believe that the story of Jesus is for all people? How does your life daily reflect this?

- This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

- In what ways are we similar to the owners of the slave girl in Acts 16:16?

- There are many times when we view people more in terms of what we want from them and what they can give us rather than viewing them as souls.

Acts 16:25-40

- What is significant and awesome about Acts 16:25?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- How can we live as disciples of Jesus who have these types of attitudes and actions regardless of our circumstances?



- Take a minute to allow the significance of Acts 16:28 to set in. What do the actions of Paul and Silas say about their devotion to God and their commitment to share the story of Jesus?
 - Paul and Silas could have easily run. Not very many people if any would fault them for this. However, they also understood and lived that their lives were not their own as disciples of Jesus. It was about making Jesus known and they took every single opportunity they had to do this, even when it wasn't convenient and even when the cost was high to them personally.
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Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Acts 17)



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