

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of June 8, 2014

This Week's Focus: How the power of the gospel comes to two very different people.

This Week's Text: Acts 16:11-24

*Three individuals are singled out by Luke among those whose lives were influenced for good by the gospel at Philippi; they differ so much one from another that he might be thought to have selected them deliberately in order to show how the saving power of the name of Jesus was shown in the most diverse types of men and women. **F.F. Bruce***

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." **Romans 1:16-17***

Related Texts: James 4:7-8, 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 4:3-7

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What do we know about Lydia?
- How might her faith in the Old Testament economy (Mosaic Law) have prepared her for responding to the gospel? How did she come to faith? What signs are we given that Lydia was truly converted?
- What do we know about the slave girl? How did her slavery impact her life and possibly prepare her to respond to the gospel? How did she come to faith?
- Contrast the pre-Christian spiritual state of the slave-girl with that of Lydia.
- Contrast the ministry of Paul to Lydia with that of Paul to the slave-girl.
- What is Luke trying to show us?
 - What does this tell us about contextualizing the unchanging gospel?

- What does this narrative teach us about how we are to approach people while living on mission?
- Are there certain prejudices that you struggle with? For example: ethnic, social, biological, cultural, or economical.
- When it comes to the gospel, discuss the contrast between what we are responsible to do and what only God can do.
- How might the gospel change the financial landscape of our community?
- In what ways are you confident and/or not confident in the changing power of the gospel?

Gospel Celebration:

- The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.
- Christ Jesus came to save all sinners.
- The power of the gospel can save and transform the religious and irreligious.
- Jesus is the only Master who can truly free us and love us and forgive us.

Prayer:

- Pray for opportunity and wisdom to share Christ.
- Pray for wisdom as we live on mission and engage cultural and racial differences for the cause of Christ.

Next Week's Text: Acts 16:19-40