

Unfinished Week 5

A Gospel for Every Heart

Small Groups - Bethany Church Long Beach

Intro:

What was helpful or challenging for you in this week's message and why?

Which of the three hearts in Acts 16 that were changed by the gospel did you most connect with (Tender, Tormented or Tough) and why?

Read Acts Chapter 16:11-40

Group Questions:

1. Do you have a vision for how you are supposed to live on mission in your life? God opened the door to Europe in Acts 16, what doors has God opened in which you might share the truth of Jesus?
2. We are introduced to Lydia, a woman with a tender heart. She was a good woman who worshipped God, but hadn't believed in Jesus or received salvation because she hadn't yet heard the gospel. Have you prayed for relationships like this one to be a part of your life? Can you share with your group the names of some of your friends who might be tender towards the Lord?
3. Are you in relationships with people who are tormented? Maybe they aren't demon possessed but they are trapped by sin?
4. What are your beliefs or experiences with the supernatural? Are you aware of the spiritual battle that exists around you or are you numb to it? What should our response as followers of Jesus be to things of this nature (witchcraft, sorcery, Ouija boards, fortune telling, etc.)? Upon who should we rely solely for guidance about the future?
5. What are some of the common excuses people have for rejecting the gospel? What are some of the reasons people have given you for not coming to our church?
6. How do you respond to the dark nights of life like the prison experience we see in Acts 16?
 - a. What might you have been doing around midnight?
 - b. The last part of verse 25 is very important. It states that the other prisoners were listening to them. Our words are powerful and people are listening to us even when we are not aware of it. What are they hearing from us?
 - c. What did those prisoners hear from Paul and Silas?
 - d. According to the scriptures, how are we to treat those who persecute us?
7. The jailer asks a question that has been asked many times since then: what must I do to be saved? What was Paul's response? What would your response be?

Pray together as a group.