

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

THE JOURNEY TO JOY (Intr. to Philippians) Acts 16:6-40

Main Thought: The journey to joy is the path of obedience to the Great Commission.

1. THE START OF THE _____ AT PHILIPPI (Acts 16:6-40)

- 1) The Apostle Paul and his _____.
- 2) Lydia, a _____ in purple cloth.
- 3) A slave girl who could _____ the future.
- 4) Paul and Silas beaten and thrown in _____.
- 5) An earthquake and the _____ of a jailer.
- 6) An _____ from the magistrates.

2. FOUR LESSONS FROM ACTS 16

- 1) There is joy in God's sovereign call to _____ the gospel.
- 2) There is joy in the _____ circumstances we encounter in proclaiming the gospel.
- 3) There is joy in the conversion of lost _____ in response to the gospel.
- 4) There is joy in the _____ of the gospel to unite in Christ people of diverse backgrounds

Application Questions: Do you know the joy that comes from being reconciled to God through Jesus Christ? Do you know the joy that comes from obeying His Great Commission?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read Acts 16:6-40 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.
2. How were Paul & his companions led to Philippi (vs. 6-12)? How did they cooperate with the Holy Spirit?
3. Where has God given you an open door to share your faith with others? How are you cooperating?
4. What three individuals came to faith in Acts 16? What might this suggest about the diversity of the Philippian church?
5. Do you see any diversity in our church community? What does this diversity look like? What are you doing to build relationships with those who are not like yourself?
6. There was no synagogue at Philippi (v. 13). What does this suggest about the Jewish population at Philippi? Along these lines, do you find it interesting that Paul & Silas are arrested, but Timothy & Luke are not (v. 20)?

7. When have you encountered negative stereotypes or opposition when sharing your faith? Share a story.

8. Why did the owners of the slave girl fail to respond to God? What do you think prevents people today from responding to God?

9. Why were Paul and Silas able to sing hymns to God after being beaten and jailed? Where did their joy come from?

10. Why did the magistrates come to apologize to Paul and Silas?

11. In what ways are you pursuing obedience to the Great Commission? How is it bringing you joy?