

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Studies in the Book of Acts

“The Gospel is for Everyone” – Acts 16:6-34

MAIN IDEA

When traveling domestically, it is always interesting to see some of the cultural variation between regions. Even in airport terminals it's easy to see some of the differences. One won't find the same full service BBQ at G.B. Intercontinental in Houston at Logan International in Boston. But really the distinctions between regions in the USA are not all that different compared to traveling internationally. One can expect most standards of comfort will be available in any American city. You've probably heard many say that after traveling out of country, for any amount of time, they're happy to be back home to what is familiar. As Paul and his mission team moved further away from Jerusalem, the variety in culture and customs widened. Stepping off the boat into Europe, their first three encounters in Philippi revealed the diversity and plurality of this part of the world. A successful business woman, who was a proselyte to Judaism; a fortune-telling, demonized girl, who was being trafficked for money; and a hardened military jailer, whose work conditions were not any better than those he incarcerated. All of these were detailed by Luke to show how Jesus and the Gospel will satisfy the spiritual search, emotional needs or physical duress of anyone.

SCRIPTURAL INSIGHT

This encounter with the psychic slave girl is reminiscent of Jesus' confrontation with the legion of demons inhabiting the man in Gadarenes. (Luke 8:26-39) In both stories the demonic correctly testify to the identity and mission of Jesus and the apostles. But also similar is their response, neither the Lord nor Paul desired the unsolicited testimony from the world of evil and deception. The enemy often likes to mix enough truth into his lies in order to gain credibility and a platform. Also shared between the stories is that Jesus Christ is the only authority who can exercise the devil. Here Paul employs the Lord's name to release the girl and ruin the fortune-telling scam of her captors.

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together Acts 16:6-34. Note how the individual decisions affected the social networks of each person. *How did your coming to faith in Christ affect your family or community?*

Acts 16:30-33 And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

- God opened Lydia's heart, set free the demon possessed girl, and saved the prison guard. *What was your situation or condition when God saved you? How did God apply the Gospel in a way that was personal to your circumstances? How has God used your testimony to resonate with others? How has your confidence in your faith continued to grow in light of God being personal?*
- Carrying one's faith into different environments means that our walk with God will be challenged in many different ways. *How has your faith been confronted intellectually? How has your faith been challenged emotionally? How has your faith been challenged physically? Read 1 Peter 3:15-17 What is the best way to be prepared for these challenges?.*

RESOURCE

The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert E. Coleman. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1993.
<https://www.amazon.com/Master-Plan-Evangelism-Robert-Coleman/dp/0800731220>

PRAYER & TESTIMONY



Community Group Discussion Guide

Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message from May 20, 2018.

Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/the-spirit-the-church-and-the-world/video/the-gospel-is-for-everyone/>