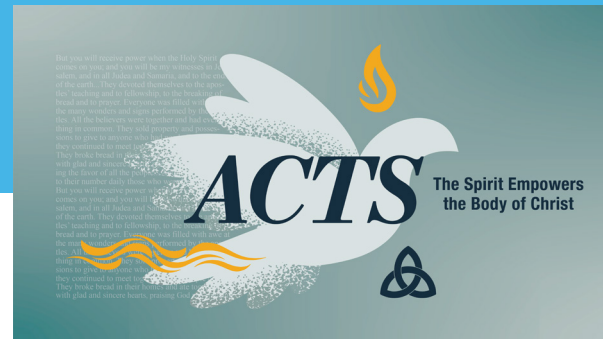


# Discussion Questions

January 19, 2025

## Acts 16:11-16

### The Generosity of the Church of Philippi



1. Share an example of where you sacrificially gave to others and experienced Godly joy, peace, or life as result.

2. Read Acts 16:11 - 15

How does the phrase "The Lord opened her heart" shape our understanding of how people come to faith?

Discuss the role of **divine intervention** versus **human effort** in evangelism. What does it look like for us to rely on the Holy Spirit?

3. Read Philippians 1:3 - 8 (NLT)

What was so special about the church in Philippi that caused Paul to hold them in such high regard?

4. What is the significance of Lydia, likely being either a single or widowed woman, leading her household to follow Jesus and having the church meet in her home?

5. Discuss how the common view of Hospitality by most Christians today compares to that of the early church.

Why is hospitality such a great value of Jesus for His church to live out? What impact does it have?

What are the primary obstacles or excuses we use today for why we struggle to live out this value? How can they be addressed?

**Acts 16:11-15 (NLT)**

We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day we landed at Neapolis. From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed.

**Philippians 4:16 (NLT)**

As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once.

**2 Corinthians 11:9 (NLT)**

When I was with you and didn't have enough to live on, I did not become a financial burden to anyone. For the brothers who came from Macedonia brought me all that I needed. I have never been a burden to you, and I never will be.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NLT)**

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

**Ajith Fernando - NIV Application Commentary**

"A key to recovering hospitality in the church's life is to liberate it from the performance trap. When hospitality becomes a performance, it becomes a strain on the host, hinders true fellowship, and makes both the hosts and the guests feel uneasy.