



February 18th Sermon Questions

Introduction to Philippians

Acts 15:36-41; 16:1-40

Icebreaker: If you could eliminate one thing from your daily routine, what would it be and why?

Discussion Questions: **Read** the scripture verses above.

1. How have you personally experienced the power of stories? Has a story ever moved you to tears or prompted you to act? Explain.
2. In our text this week we witness the origin story of the church at Philippi, the congregation to whom the Apostle Paul later writes the letter of Philippians. What's the beginning of your story? What has happened in your life before now that has led you to this place? How did you see God at work along the way, either in real-time or in hindsight?
3. How does God divinely direct Paul and his companions to Macedonia (i.e. to Philippi) in verses 6-10? What do you think about this supernatural guidance?
4. In this text we see three conversions: Lydia (vv.11-15), a slave girl (vv.16-18), and a jailer (vv.25-34). What strikes you about each of these? Which one seems the most impressive? Is there one you identify most with?

5. In the case of the slave girl and jailer, we witness God working through miraculous circumstances, but in Lydia's conversion, God meets her amid her ordinary routine. Where do you see God at work in the mundane, regular aspects of your life?
6. Do you tend to look for God in the ordinary? Why or why not? How might you grow in your awareness of God's presence and your estimation of His power in mundane spaces?
7. Interestingly, of the three conversions in this chapter, we only are given the name of the one who was a woman--Lydia. What women have had a major impact on your story? What women have deeply formed and shaped your spiritual journey?
8. What is your takeaway from our discussion tonight?
9. What do you think God might be calling you to think, believe, feel, or do as a result of our conversation about the Scriptures?