

## Philippians: Discovering your true source of joy!

### Key Scriptures

Acts 16:12-40 <sup>14</sup> Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. . .

<sup>16</sup> Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation . . ."

<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. <sup>27</sup> And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. . .

### Key Point

The gospel is God's powerful way of unifying people in His church and is for everyone to respond to!

## TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What mail do you open first: Bills? Official looking stuff? Personal mail? Love letter?
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Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Acts 16:12-40. What thoughts do these verses stir in you?
- Imagine that you had been present during these events. How would this have affected your view of these missionaries and of Jesus Christ?
- Of the three characters we see who experience God's life-changing power, which do you feel you would relate to the most? Why?
- Verse 19 tells us the owners of the slave girl saw their hope of making money was gone. What did they fail to realize? In what sense were the owners the real slaves in this story?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Imagine that you had been present during these events. How would this have affected your view of these missionaries and of Jesus Christ?
- Imagine you were imprisoned with Paul and Silas. What sights, sounds, smells etc. would you be experiencing? How do you think you would have responded to these circumstances?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Today and each day this week, devote a portion of your prayer time to asking God for a greater level of kindness and compassion for the lost in your life. Ask Him for the ability to minister to others while we are in this unique situation.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Have you read through Philippians? This week take some time to read ahead, and mark out any passages you may want to commit to memory.