

“A display of God’s power” – Discussion Questions on Acts 16v11-40

*Feel free to choose the questions that you feel are most interesting or relevant for your group – there is no need to go through them all! This passage marks the next stage of Paul’s second missionary journey as Paul crosses from Troas into the Roman province of Macedonia, and on to Philippi, which is described as the leading city in its district in 16v12. Philippi was wealthy and a Roman colony, and so the question that now arises is: how will the gospel fare in a new and challenging environment? To answer this question, Luke gives us three accounts of three very different individuals who had their lives transformed by Christ.*

Read Acts 16v11-40

1. Thinking about Lydia, the slave girl and the jailer, what are some of the differences between them that you can see from the text? What similarities are there between these accounts?
2. Looking at the story of Lydia in v11-15, what lessons can we learn from this story to apply to our own evangelism?
3. How does the story of the slave girl in v16-24 give us hope when we think about ourselves or those who we may know who have experienced very difficult backgrounds?
4. What does the response to Paul casting out the demon from the slave girl show us about the nature of the opposition that Christians may face in the world?
5. In the sermon I argued that the jailer was brought to the point of asking his question in v30 by three factors – a vague understanding of Christianity, experiencing a crisis, and seeing examples of Christian integrity. How might these three factors help us as we seek to be witnesses for Christ today?
6. Looking at Galatians 3v28, how does this verse help us to understand Luke’s purpose in including these three stories in particular? How does Acts 16 show the power of the gospel at work in Philippi?
7. How does this account of the church in Philippi both encourage and challenge us as a church today? How does our church at Eden display the power of God at the moment? How might this help us if we are discouraged as a Christian or someone who is not a Christian yet?
8. Can you think of any practical ways that we can guard the unity that we have as a church?