

## Small Group Study Winter Semester Week Three:

*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.*

### Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) In this week's passage, Paul has some trouble with the law. Share a story of a time when you had 'trouble with the law' (tickets, warnings, etc.). Especially pertinent would be trouble in another city or country.
- b) What is the one TV show that is no longer on TV, that you wish was still creating new content?

### Passage and Discussion

#### Read **Acts 16:12-40**

- a) What stands out to you from this passage, upon first reading?
- b) Of the three characters we read about (Lydia, the slave girl and the Jailer), whose story resonates with you the most? Why?
- c) One thing we notice in the text is that God connects with these individuals through different means and circumstances. Share the story of how God opened your heart to hear him. Was it similar to one of the characters in this text, or altogether different?
- d) In what ways are you tempted to pat yourself on the back, or praise people for what God does or is doing? Are you more likely to praise people, or God for things that go well in the church? Who do you blame when things are (seemingly) going poorly?
- e) In this account, God makes Himself known to 3 very different people, showing that He does not discriminate or show favoritism. Would you say that your efforts to care for and reach out to others with the gospel show any sort of favoritism or discrimination? What type of people are you naturally drawn to when sharing your faith? Who do you avoid sharing your faith with?
- f) Read **Revelation 7:9-10** and **Philippians 2:10-11**. What images come to mind when you picture this reality or event? Whom do you picture when you imagine this promise? Have you ever thought of evangelism in terms of 'adding to this number'? Who would you *like* to picture when you read this verse?
- g) We discussed this week how God changes and re-defines His children when they come to know Him, giving them the identity as 'Saint' or 'Holy People'. Would you say that it is easy to identify yourself that way? Why or why not?
- h) What things / roles in your life are you tempted to define yourself by? Enlist the help of the group to discuss the dangers of putting your identity in (and / or finding your worth in) that thing / role.
- i) How does finding our identity in Christ, position us to better live out the mission that God has given us as His followers and His church?
- j) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

### **Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)**

- a) Consider praying **Romans 8:38-39** for someone (people) you know who has not received God's love. Pray that God would overcome whatever obstacles are currently keeping them from experiencing it.
- b) Spend some time telling yourself that you are God's Holy child and that you are a Saint. Speak out loud (or make a list of) all the things that do not define who you are. Replace those things with the truth – that you are a child of God and a Saint in His family.

### **Optional Ideas for Prayer Time**

- a) Have each member think of a friend who is not yet a believer. Pray **Romans 8:38-39** over each of the people that you think of – insert their name into the end of the passage in place of "us".
- b) Pray for our city this week. Pray for all of the people who live in Winnipeg – that God would encounter each and every one of them. Pray that we would be obedient to bringing the gospel throughout our city.

### **Announcements / Service Opportunities**

#### **a) Daybreak Women's Study – Winter Session**

Tuesdays from **January 28 - March 24** at 9:00 a.m. Daybreak is a Tuesday Bible study community where women meet together to enjoy time with one another as they learn more about God. We will be studying "The Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer. Children's programming is available. Cost: \$25. Sign-up online or in the foyer on Sunday.

#### **b) Men's Hockey Night**

**Saturday, February 1** from 4:00 – 10:00. Come hang out, play floor hockey and games, eat supper, cheer on the Jets to victory, and get to know other men in our community. Cost \$10. Sign-up online or in the foyer on Sunday.

#### **c) IF: Gathering – Women's Weekend**

**February 28-29.** IF: Gathering is coming to Winnipeg and we want you to be a part of it. The Women's Ministry at Grant Memorial Church is excited to be an IF: Local site for the 2020 IF: Gathering. IF is an annual event that gathers women across generations, denominations, and cultures, who are exploring or have a relationship with Jesus Christ. We will be viewing/discussing sessions from the 2020 IF: Gathering. Cost is \$50 and includes meals.