



TEXT: Philippians 1, Acts 16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Reading Guide** - We have a reading guide for our new series through the book of Philippians. Go to RedeemerChurch.com/NextSteps to access the reading guide.
 - **Life Groups** - Our Life Groups are beginning to make plans for the Summer. Make sure to reach out to your group leader and stay plugged in during the Summer! If you aren't part of a group, go to RedeemerChurch.com/LifeGroups for more information.
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Leading Off...

1. What is something God has done in your life that was unexpected?
2. Why was it probably unexpected that Paul would write to the church at Philippi?
3. Why is it important for Christians to acknowledge the darkness around us, but to seek to find the joy in the midst of the darkness?

BIG IDEA: Jesus brings joy in unlikely places with unlikely people.

Read Philippians 1:1-5

4. Paul sets the example for Christians in encouraging one another with kind words that build others up. How have you been blessed by someone who has done this for you?
5. Why is this such an important practice we all should take part in?
6. Paul mentions his partnership in the gospel with the church at Philippi. What are some examples of gospel partnerships that come to your mind?

Read Acts 16:13-15

7. In verse 13, why did Paul go down by the river? Who did he meet and why is this such an important encounter?
8. What do we know about Lydia?

Read Acts 16:16-24

9. Talk about the sad story of this girl's life.
10. In verse 18, why did Paul become annoyed and what did he do?
11. Paul and Silas are severely beaten and placed in prison. Think about the horrible conditions they were in. Share your thoughts.

Read Acts 16:26-34

12. Paul and Silas are miraculously set free. We see the jailer coming to them in fear and ultimately for salvation. We see the plans and purposes of God becoming evident in the midst of the pain and suffering. In addition to asking God the "why" questions, why should we also ask "who" questions, to better understand God's plans and purposes in our pain?
13. The jailer and his family became believers and are baptized. The gospel always changes people. Talk about these amazing events. What have you learned from these accounts?

Wrapping Up

Read Acts 16:40

14. The church at Philippi is born. Talk about the unique, unlikely and varied group of people God assembled to form this church. What does this tell us?
15. What can we learn from the beginnings of the church at Philippi and apply to our church?