

Community Group Guide

Phillipians Week 1

“A Unique Beginning”

Week of April 19

Check-in

1. What lessons did you learn from your time in the Word this week?
 2. What has God done in your life that's encouraging over the past 2 weeks?
 3. Who did you share the good news of Easter with last week?
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Scripture

Read *Phillipians 1:1-11; Acts 16:13-34*

Key Points From Message

Key points from Acts 16 on the founding of the church in Philippi:

1. Knowledge of God doesn't give you access to God.
2. There's no limit to the power of Jesus' name and His ability to save people even in the worst of places
3. Let the gospel drive you to action, don't try to direct your actions to drive you to God.

Two reasons why the beginning of the church was so important:

1. The new church literally defied every racial, socioeconomic, cultural, and religious barrier.
 2. The beginning of the church in Philippi shows off the saving power of God
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Discover

1. Who is the author of this passage? Who is the target audience?
2. What stands out to you in this passage of Scripture?
3. Compare and contrast the situations of Lydia, the slave girl, and the jailer from Acts 16.
4. In Phillipians 1:9 what does Paul pray for?

Deepen

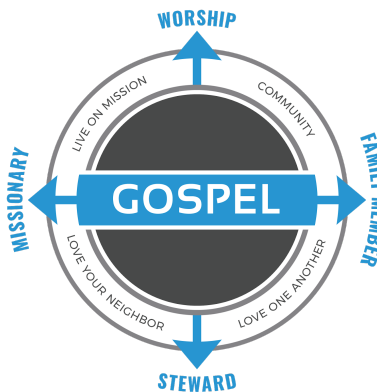
1. What challenged you about this week's message?
 2. In Acts 16 we saw that the church in Philippi was diverse in socioeconomic, cultural, and racial standards. Does your view of Christianity look the same? What barriers do you struggle with breaking?
 3. In Acts 16:25-34 we see how Paul's suffering led to the jailer's salvation. During your suffering do others see the joy that you have in Jesus?
 4. In Phillipians 1:9 we see that Paul is praying that the church will continue to grow in their knowledge and discernment. Who are you specifically praying for to grow in their knowledge of Christ?
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Discipleship Group Framework

D-group discussions in smaller gender-specific groups help to reveal our blind spots to sin. If this week is a D-group week, the discussions should be focused on confession of sins, providing accountability, and encouraging each other to live in the gospel. This time allows us to better evaluate our relationships, emotions, and circumstances.

Action Step

Where do you need to grow in your knowledge of God's love? Where do you need to be stretched so that you can grow as a Christ follower? In your current stage of life do you identify with Lydia, the slave girl, or the jailer? Discuss this with your community group.



Missions Focus: Local Food Pantries

Must Ministries

Must Ministries is a local organization founded in 1971 with the mission of being a servant leader for the communities in Marietta, Smyrna, Canton, and Cherokee County. Must Ministries helps to connect those who have a desire to help with those who need help the most. With the school closings, Must Ministries is collecting food to help feed at-risk students and their families. For more information go to mustministries.org.

Mosaic Church

Mosaic Church is a member of the SBC and the main food distribution point for local schools in the West Cobb area. They are currently collecting non-perishable food donations for the 1500 families that they serve. Donations can be dropped off at Mosaic Church (1528 Austell Rd, Marietta, Ga 30008) Mon-Thur from 9am-4pm. Go to <http://www.mosaicmarietta.org/covid19.html> for more information or to sign up to help pack boxes/monitor the computer lab for kids who are out of school.

Fair Oaks Elementary School

Fair Oaks Elementary School is one of the schools we have partnered with. They are currently in need of non-perishable food items (spaghetti, ramen, mac & cheese; foods that only need water

and a microwave), diapers, and baby formula/food. Donations can be dropped off at Fair Oaks between 10am-noon (407 Barber Rd, Marietta, Ga 30060).

Go to <https://www.imageatl.com/covid19/serve/> for more information.

Prayer

Father, thank you for giving us community. Thank you for creating us with different backgrounds so we can learn from each other. Help us to continue to grow and encourage one another to grow in our knowledge of You. Let our suffering show the joy that Your love gives us so others can know you also.

Memory Verse

“I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content--whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.” -Philippians 4:12-13 (CSB)

Announcements

- There will be no physical gathering on Sunday April 26. We will be broadcasting the service at 10:30am from our [website](#) and our [youtube channel](#)
- Go to <https://www.imageatl.com/covid19/> for the most recent updates