

## **Summary**

In this sermon, Pastor discusses the founding of the church in Philippi as described in Acts 16 and Philippians 1. He explains how Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, went to Macedonia instead of Asia and established a church by the riverside where people were already gathering to pray. The sermon emphasizes that the church is not a building but the people themselves, and suggests that the next level of church growth will happen in homes through small groups and prayer meetings. The pastor also addresses spiritual warfare, demonstrating how Paul confronted demonic spirits, and encourages believers to speak with authority when confronting spiritual opposition.

## **Intro Prayer**

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we remember how You guided Paul to establish Your church in unexpected places. Open our hearts to hear what You want to teach us through this study. Help us to recognize that we are Your church—not just in buildings, but wherever we go. Give us discernment to recognize Your voice and courage to follow Your leading, even when it takes us in unexpected directions. May our time together strengthen our faith and deepen our commitment to being the church You've called us to be. In Jesus' name, amen.

## **Ice Breaker**

If you could start a small group or Bible study anywhere (besides a church building), where would you choose to host it and why?

## **Key Verses**

Philippians 1:5-6

Acts 16:13-15

Acts 16:17-18

Acts 16:22-23

## **Questions**

1. Paul received a 'check in his spirit' about going to Asia, and instead followed God's direction to Macedonia. When have you felt God redirecting your plans, and how did you respond?
2. The sermon states, 'The church is not a building.' How does this understanding change the way we think about our role as Christians in our daily lives?
3. What does it mean to you personally to be an 'earth shaker' as mentioned in the sermon?
4. The pastor suggested that 'the next level church is going to happen in homes.' What advantages might house churches or small groups have over traditional church buildings?
5. In the sermon, we see Paul confronting a spirit of divination. How can we discern between genuine spiritual gifts and counterfeit spiritual manifestations?
6. The pastor mentioned that when you start praying seriously, 'you become a danger to the enemy.' Have you experienced spiritual opposition when you've committed more deeply to prayer?
7. How can we maintain healthy relationships within the church even when we disagree or face conflicts with other believers?
8. The sermon emphasized speaking with authority when confronting spiritual opposition. What does it mean to pray and speak with authority, and how can we develop this in our spiritual lives?

## **Life Application**

This week, commit to the 30-minute daily prayer challenge mentioned in the sermon. Find a specific time each day to pray intentionally with your mouth open, speaking with authority as discussed. Consider starting

or joining a small prayer group that meets regularly outside the church building—perhaps in your home, workplace, or another community space. As you pray, ask God to show you how you can be the church wherever you go, and look for opportunities to share Christ's love with those around you who may be hurting or struggling.

### **Key Takeaways**

- The church is not a building but the people themselves—we are called to be the church wherever we go.
- God often redirects our plans to accomplish His purposes, as He did with Paul by bringing Asia (Lydia) to him rather than sending him to Asia.
- When confronting spiritual opposition, we must speak with authority in the name of Jesus rather than being passive.
- Healthy relationships within the church require forgiveness, reconciliation, and putting others before ourselves.
- The next level of church growth may happen through house churches and small groups rather than larger buildings.

### **Ending Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for reminding us that we are Your church—Your hands and feet in this world. Help us to remember that You desire to restore us to our original design and purpose. Give us the courage to speak with authority against the enemy's schemes and the wisdom to discern Your voice above all others. As we go from here, empower us to be earth shakers in our communities, workplaces, and homes. May we build Your church not just within these walls but wherever You lead us. Help us to love one another deeply and to resolve conflicts in ways that honor You. We commit to being faithful in prayer and to seeking opportunities to share Your love with those around us. In Your mighty name we pray, amen.