

He Is Worthy of It All
Acts 16; Philippians 2:6-11

Greetings, Life Groups! I'm back from my sabbatical in the high hopes that you gleaned a lot from John Mark Comer's video series on following the way of Jesus. Some of our groups have wrapped up that series while others have a couple of weeks to go. If your group has concluded Comer's study, here are some questions to prepare you for this week's Life Group.

Pastor Eric

 Setting the Scene – Philippi's Background

What stood out to you about the city of Philippi and its Roman identity? How might Philippi's status as a Roman colony, complete with legal privileges and pride, have shaped how its citizens viewed Paul and his message?

Why do you think God chose such a politically and militarily significant city as the first European outpost for the gospel?

 Paul's Calling to Europe – Acts 16

What strikes you about Paul's immediate response to the vision of the man from Macedonia?

How might the team have felt leaving familiar territory (Asia) to sail toward an unknown continent (Europe)?

Why do you think God chose **Lydia**, a wealthy businesswoman, as the first European convert?

The gospel often encounters resistance when it disrupts systems of power or profit. Can you think of modern examples of this tension?

 Suffering for the Gospel – Philippi and Beyond

Why do you think opposition and suffering followed Paul wherever he went?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:23–27. What emotions do you feel as you hear Paul describe his sufferings? Do you think Paul was "crazy?" What motivated him to keep going?

 The Christ Hymn – Philippians 2:5–11

What truths about Jesus in Philippians 2:5–11 most move you or surprise you? What does it mean that Jesus "did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage?"

Why would this vision of Jesus compel Paul to endure hardship and keep preaching?

Personal Reflection & Application

Paul's life showed that following Jesus often makes us look "a little bit eccentric." In what ways might that be true for us today? If someone asked you, "Why do you live differently?" how might you answer, in light of Philippians 2?

How can we, like Paul, draw strength from knowing who Jesus really is?