

Sermon Application

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: Guest Sermon

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: Guest Sermon — A1:8

Main Text: Acts 16:13-15

Supporting Text(s): N/A

Message Outline:

This past Sunday, we had the privilege of hearing from Randy Freeman, Director of Urban Tribes and Pastor of Northplace Church in Durban, South Africa. Through A1:8, Parkside is a supporter of Urban Tribes, and a monthly contributor to several of their missionaries. In this message, Randy shared about their work in Durban, and across the continent while also sharing stories of life change similar to that of Lydia in Acts 16.

Karen's testimony

- Randy shared about a young professional woman named Karen who came to worship at their church in Durban one morning by herself. From a distance Randy explained that he could sense the Holy Spirit was ministering to her. In the coming weeks, she

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made the decision to follow Christ and was baptized!

But she kept asking for a meeting with Randy...

- Eventually when they sat down, Karen shared that she had been a practicing witch doctor before she met Jesus.
- Randy explained that while Durban is a beautiful, urban, and global city much like what we would expect to find here in the US, many people have still never heard the real gospel of Jesus Christ. For Karen, she thought Christianity was a tool for colonization and that her ancestors spirits were who she should worship and pray too.

Lydia's conversion

- Lydia was not a Jew, but she was God-curious enough to go down to the river to pray.
- Upon hearing the good news of Jesus—Lydia was baptized along with her entire family.
- Similar to Karen, Lydia's eyes were opened that day to the *real* gospel and it changed her life forever.

What this means for us

- Lydia was a person of influence. Once she heard about Jesus, he redeemed her influence for the sake of the gospel by leading her family and friends to Christ and funding more missionary work. What gifts and experience and passions has God given you that he might redeem for his purposes?

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- We cannot assume that everyone we pass has heard the real gospel of Jesus Christ. And thus we must be ready to share it as well as our own testimony.
- In Acts 16:14, Luke records that, “The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.” This was true of Lydia, and Karen, and every other believer. We need the Holy Spirit to go before us and draw people to Jesus and receive his grace.

Step 03: Lead group discussion.

Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Specific to this week’s message:

1. Reflect on Randy’s message and specifically Karen’s testimony. What was moving about this for you?
2. Have you stopped to consider recently that some people in your life who are not following Jesus might not have heard the real, full gospel yet?
3. How comfortable would you be if God was asking you to be the one to share it with them?
4. Karen had a fear/anger toward “the gospel” being used as a tool for colonization. What cultural opposition is there for the gospel in our current climate and context?
5. How can we be witnesses to what the real gospel is?
6. Reflecting on one of the things we want for everyone in our church, which is to Live on Mission—what do you think might be a take-a-way for you? (i.e. partner with

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A1:8, share the gospel with a friend, be a witness in other ways, etc.)

General questions:

7. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
8. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
9. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
10. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?