



Welcome + Opening Prayer

Acts 16:11-24

See passage printed on the back of this page.

Explore + Apply

THEMATIC OVERVIEW

Opening our hearts to God and His counterintuitive ways of bringing about His Kingdom.

1. Where do you get stuck in your life with God? Like Lydia, we at some level know aren't supposed to just live for ourselves and to live for God, but we get stuck on what that means in daily life. What did Lydia see about Christ that helped?
2. What does the centrality of women (and minorities) in the early church mean to you? How does this fit with other parts of Scripture beyond Acts, God's character, and the trajectory of a community that is shaped by the gospel?
3. What does it mean to you, especially as we gather for home group and worship in a middle school, that it was 300 years before Christians had church buildings? Lydia like many early Christians, hosted church in her home, and Christianity spread by followers of Christ opening their homes. How does this change the way you value acts of hospitality in your own home? How does marveling at Jesus help with the barriers to hospitality?

Pray

PRAYER GUIDELINES

In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace as we enjoy a unique time of fellowship with God made possible through Christ's servant leadership.

- Praise God that He did not spare Jesus, who lost His life to win us to Himself.
- Pray for one another in the places you are stuck in your walk with God - for open hearts to lose everything for the sake of gaining Christ, in whom we have everything.
- Pray God's Kingdom come as He gives us all grace to open our homes and extend hospitality.

GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

on Mar 4: HG Leaders meet following worship in the library

*week of Mar 4
week of Mar 18*

Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.

Acts 16:11-24

11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.