



# Fellowship Groups

## “Paul: the Pioneer” Acts 16:6-31

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Sermon Date: October 16, 2016

### LINKS:

This week’s sermon:  
<https://markhambiblechapel.app.box.com/v/sermons>

Resources Link:  
<https://mbc.churchcenteronline.com/groups/fellowship-groups>

### Believer’s Challenge follow-up:

In last session, believers were encourage to engage a person in conversation with the intention of discovering their spiritual status and then engage them with the gospel. The suggested question was to ask “How would you describe your relationship with God?”

Inquire if anyone took up the challenge in your group, and what the reaction to the question was. Would anyone like to share a similar experience or gospel discussion that occurred since we met last?

### Acts 16:6-31

#### What did God Say? - Explore the Passage

- Read v6-10 : Paul and Silas find their journey divinely directed as the Holy Spirit prevented them from speaking God’s message in the province of Asia.
  - > Why does Paul feel so convinced that they should travel to Philippi instead of staying in Troas?
- Read v11-15: After several days in Philippi, Paul meet a women named Lydia. It is said that she was a worshipper of God, but there was something missing in her life.
  - > Discuss what this was and what happened next after hearing the gospel.
  - > Contrast what it means to be a “worshipper (or believer) in God” and a Christian believer.
- Read v16-24: While at the same place of prayer where Paul first met Lydia, there was slave girl who had the spirit of divination or clairvoyance.
  - > Why was Paul so annoyed with her and her masters so upset with Paul?
  - > What were the consequences for Paul’s command to the evil spirit to come out of her?

- Read v25-34: Amidst Paul & Silas' witness to the guard and the other prisoners, there was a midnight deliverance following an earthquake.
  - > It was not just the prisoner's chains that were loosed. Discuss who else's "chains fell off."
  - > The jailor's first reaction was to kill himself, making a false (but understandable) assumption that the prisoners had fled. Discuss the miracle that happened here.
  - > This section contains a question and an answer that is used in nearly every explanation of the gospel to explain the profound simplicity of faith in Christ. Name them.

### What does it mean?

1. Dr. Luke includes the stories of 3 conversions in this passage with each individual showing vastly different lives and conditions of the heart (Lydia - open heart / Slave girl - a possessed heart / Roman jailor - a hard heart). Despite their obvious differences, the gospel reached them all and their lives were changed.
  - > What does this say about the universality of the gospel?
  - > What ideas does this give you for witnessing in your own sphere of influence?
- In this passage we see Paul as spiritual, evangelical, personal/team worker, and indomitable (determined and undaunted).
  - a. Discuss how each of these characteristics helped his testimony? Did it hinder his testimony? How?
  - b. How did these same attributes encourage you to "proclaim the gospel?"

### Why does it Matter?

2. Was there ever a time in your life when God closed a door, only to then provide an opportunity for another one?
  - b. How did you react to this call?
  - c. How was this change of plans received by others?
  - d. What words of encouragement can you give others who want to hear God's direction in their lives?
3. Many would have expected Paul & Silas to be discouraged after being beaten and placed into prison. However, despite their chains, the darkness was filled with prayer and praise for their Savior.
  - > What can we learn from this in our lives when things don't go as planned?
4. What does it mean as Christians to be a "pioneer" for the gospel? Is it still possible to be a pioneer for God in the world today? In Canada?
5. Discuss this statement in light of the Gospel: "It is not our ability, but our availability." How can you be more "available" in your witnessing?

**Believer's Challenge:**

There is no doubt that throughout Paul's ministry he had an unyielding desire to Pioneer the gospel to everyone - often at times and places least expected (i.e. outside the temple, in the midst of his enemies, while in prison).

> Your challenge before the next session is: to step out of your "comfort zone" and share the gospel with at least one person. Be prepared to share with the group about your experience(s).

*Helpful Tip:* Use the approach discussed last session by asking "How would you describe your relationship with God?"