

Nothing to Prove, Something to Give Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is a memorable gift you have received?
2. Five years ago, did you expect to be living where you are now?

Read the following passages: Acts 16:1-3, 11-15, 25-34

Many unique stories formed the foundation of the church in Philippi. Timothy had just recently joined Paul as a co-worker. Lydia worked in the marketplace and likely interacted with many well-to-do people. A jailer and his family became followers of Jesus after God miraculously freed Paul, Silas, and others from prison. The church in Philippi is a reminder to us that, no matter what our story might be, God can work through us to accomplish his mission.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:3-5. Have you been significantly impacted by the faith of any of your relatives? Explain. How do you think God wants to use you in the lives of your family members?
2. The story of God's work in our lives can be a blessing to others. Paul's conversion story is recorded three times in the book of Acts, and Paul often refers to elements of his story in his letters. What are some parts of your story that might be helpful to others?
3. In Acts 16:14, Luke notes that Lydia was listening as Paul spoke about Jesus. In our distracted world, taking the time to listen is often the first step in God's work in our lives or in somebody else's life. How well would you say you are paying attention to the people around you and the Holy Spirit's guidance as you go throughout the day? What are some specific times or places in which you can deliberately make an effort to listen to others?
4. Paul and Silas were in a very dark place, but as they worshipped God, he did a miracle that not only impacted their lives, but the lives of everyone in the prison. What are some practical ways we can stand in faith and be a light to others even when we're experiencing great challenges?
5. What is one way you would like to see God work through your life?

Pray