

reachONE

REACHING... the Jailer
Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor
March 2, 2014

Acts 16:25-34a

INTRODUCTION – RECAP FROM LAST WEEK (Acts 16:16-24)

PHILIPPIAN JAILER (Acts 16:25-31)

- 1 Probably a retired Roman soldier
- 2 Strict in his treatment of Paul & Silas
- 3 Aware of Gospel influence in his city

TRAINING PRINCIPLE #1: When it comes to spiritual matters, people are often paying more attention than we realize.

- 4 Impressed with Paul & Silas' response to suffering

SALVATION EXPERIENCES

- ❖ NICODEMUS → Born again (John 3)
- ❖ SAMARITAN → Living water (John 4)
- ❖ ETHIOPIAN → Lifting spiritual fog (Acts 8)
- ❖ LYDIA → Adding the missing piece (Acts 16)
- ❖ SLAVE GIRL → Liberation from the devil (Acts 16)

TRAINING PRINCIPLE #2: A saving relationship with God requires that you cross a line of faith concerning Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Lord, I want to be saved today. So right here and now I am crossing the line of faith. Jesus, I receive You into my life as my Lord and Savior. Please forgive me of my sins, cleanse me of my guilt, and move inside. I want to be a member of Your forever family. I believe in You! Amen.

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED? (Acts 16:32-34)

- 1 To follow the example set by Jesus Himself. (Mark 1:9)
- 2 Because Christ commands it. (Matthew 28:19; John 14:15)
- 3 Baptism demonstrates that I'm committed to following Jesus Christ. (Acts 18:8)

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM? IT SYMBOLIZES...

- 1 Cleansing from sin (Acts 22:16)
- 2 Clothing ourselves with Christ's character (Galatians 3:26)
- 3 Death & resurrection (Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:3-4)

FAQ ABOUT BAPTISM

- I trusted in Jesus Christ for my salvation for the first time today.
- I rededicated my life to Christ today.
- I will obey the Lord in the faith step of believer's baptism on Good Friday, April 18th.



REACHING... the Jailer

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor

March 2, 2014

Lesson Aim: *To grow in our understanding and application of God's heart to reach people that don't know Him... and begin to learn how to become "REACHERS" ourselves.*

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study time and/or discussion.

Ice-breaker: Do you enjoy water recreation/sports (examples: swimming, boating, water-skiing, etc.)? Why or why not?

1. **READ Acts 16:25-28.** How were Paul and Silas testifying about God to the jailer and other prisoners without actually preaching a message?
2. One of the key principles from Pastor Scott's message this weekend was "when it comes to spiritual matters, people are often paying more attention than we realize." Have you ever experienced this with someone who was watching you?
3. As was stated in the message, the jailer was clearly "impressed with Paul & Silas' response to suffering." Who has been a good example to you (either someone you've heard of or known personally) of responding in a godly way to suffering?
4. **READ Acts 16:29-32.** The jailer clearly recognized his spiritual need and asked "what must I do to be saved?" If someone were to ask you this question, would you be able to share your faith story (how you came to know Jesus personally) in about 45-60 seconds? Have a few people try this in the group right now.

5. **READ Romans 3:23-24, 6:23 & 10:9-10.** Using these verses as a reference (and your message notes): If someone asked you a question similar to the jailer's question, what would you say to them to help them "cross the line of faith"? Would one or more of you in the group give a little "role-playing" demonstration of what this might look like?
6. **READ Acts 16:33-34.** At what point in their spiritual journey were the jailer and his family baptized?
7. There are several important reasons for a believer to get baptized that were shared on Sunday. What were one or two that stood out to you and why?
8. **READ Galatians 3:26-29.** What are some powerful truths we are proclaiming through baptism?
9. For those in the group who have been baptized, **briefly** share your baptism story.
10. If you haven't been baptized, is there anything holding you back that your group could help you with or pray for you about?

Close in prayer, taking time to pray (by name) for some of the people you who don't know Jesus. Also pray for each other to have the heart of Jesus and His guidance as you strive to reach others for Him (if your LifeGroup is large you may want to break up into smaller groups to do this).

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our friendly, message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.