



Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

Holy Spirit leads us... Acts 16:6-15. Sun 24th May 2020

WELCOME: Presently a home can welcome up to 5 visitors so, if your LIFEgroup is small enough, you can meet together in someone's home. Some groups may choose a *hybrid* approach, with some of the group gathering live, while others Zoom in. From this week up to "10 people can attend a religious gathering or attend a place of worship for private worship." This means that a larger LIFEgroup of up to 10 people can meet together in a group on the church premises – as long as we have 4 square metres per person, we keep 1.5metres apart when we gather, and follow necessary hygiene protocols. If your group would like to use the church building please contact Deb to book in - deb@connectchurch.org.au

REFLECTION: How did you go with Prayer this week, after Vanessa's encouraging and challenging message last week? Sometimes God says "No" and sometime "Yes and..." – whether that is a challenge to wait for God's answer... or God has been waiting for us to ask? Are you praying any bigger prayers? Are you more aware of the presence, power and direction of the Holy Spirit?

DISCUSSING SUNDAY'S ONLINE SERVICE:

- What changes from Connect being online do you think we should retain?
- What have you most missed and are most looking forward to?

Read Acts 16:6-15 around your group

- What are your initial reflections about the overall passage?
- Are there any surprises in the passage?

Re-read Acts 16:6-10

- Why didn't Paul and his friends go to Asia?
- Is this a surprise to you? Have you ever experienced any kind of limitation by God?
- In what ways does Paul hear from God?
- How do you hear from God – can you relate any experiences to your group?

Read John 14:25–26; 16:13; 1 Cor 2:9–13; Eph 3:3–5

- What do these passages reveal about God communicating with people?
- What practical outcomes should we expect to see in churches today?
- In what ways would you like to see some of these outcomes in your LIFEgroup & Connect church?

Read Acts 16:11-13

- **What do we learn about Philippi?**
- **Why do you think the Holy Spirit led Paul to Philippi?**
- **What do you think the significance is of the people Paul met on the Sabbath?**

Read Acts 16:14

- **What do we learn about Lydia?**
- **In what ways do you think Lydia might be described as a “person of peace?”**
- **How would you describe the process of Lydia coming to faith in Christ?**
 - **What part does Paul play?**
 - **What part does the Lord play?**
 - **What part does Lydia play?**
- **What does this suggest to you about the journey of coming to faith in Christ for those on your prayer list?**

Read Acts 16:15

- **What do we learn about Lydia?**
- **How would you rate Lydia’s influence in her household?**
- **How significant is hospitality and generosity for followers of Jesus?**

Pray together:

Pray for one another that we would grow in relationship with God, so that we are able to hear more clearly. Pray that we will be blessed as we continue to engage with the principles and practices we learned in Evangelism Shift last year, and that God by His Holy Spirit would empower us to be the people that He intends for us to be. Pray this blessing over one another:

**The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.**

Numbers 6:24-26