



## **KINGDOM CITIZENS • Living Faithfully in God's Kingdom Now**

### **A Study of Philippians • Week 1 Resource**

**Prayer:** *Holy Spirit, give us the discipline to listen to your voice and the Scriptures tonight. Give us grace for one another and courage to share our lives together as you form us in Christ's image. Amen*

The church in Philippi was started by the Apostle Paul on the second of his missionary journeys. The story of how the church began is told by Luke in Acts 16, ten years before Paul writes to them from prison in Rome.

#### **Read Acts 16:11-40**

##### *Personal Reflection*

What stands out to you as you hear the story read? Is there anything that surprises you or upsets you or brings you comfort?

##### *Group Discussion*

Paul, Silas and Luke encounter three very different people in these stories. Discuss these differences and the manner in which these people came to place their faith in Christ? What does this say about the power of the Gospel of Jesus?

Paul started a church with a single woman who was a foreigner to the town of Philippi, a recently released young slave girl and a Gentile working for the Roman government. What can we learn about the new church in Philippi that could help us advance the cause of Christ in our day and time?

Paul waits until after he is released to tell the authorities that he is a Roman citizen and that his rights have been violated. Why do you think he waited until after and not before or during his unlawful and brutal treatment? What would you have done?

What does this say about Paul's understanding of his mission?

What comes to mind when you hear the word “evangelism”? How does the word and the idea make you feel? Given these stories, how would you describe the work of evangelism?

In these verses from Acts 16, Paul could be described as “people-centered, mission-focused, and Spirit-directed.” What description of the three do you most embody (and least embody) in your life? How might your “evangelism” or witness be impacted if you embodied all three?

*Personal Response*

What prevents you from moving actively toward people or situations with the good news of Jesus?

Commit to praying for one person in your life ... asking the Holy Spirit to open up an opportunity for you to share the love that God has for them.