



theridgechurch

LIFEgroup Discussion Questions
Sacred Joy: A study of Philippians
September 27, 2009

The beginning witness to Philippi

Read: Acts 16.1-40

1. What led Paul to go to Philippi?
2. Discuss the three encounters they have with the women, the slave-girl and the jailer.
3. Paul believed that there was power in the name of Jesus Christ. What power is there?
4. What accompanies evangelism at times according to this context?
5. What is the significance of baptism?

The continuing witness to Philippi

Read: Philippians 1.1-6

6. Who is Paul and Timothy writing and how do they greet them?
7. The order of the words in verse 2 is significant. Genuine peace can only follow after accepting the undeserved grace that only comes from God. Can you see how there can be times where peace is lacking because we all too often forget about God's grace?
8. When was the last time you wrote or contacted another Christian with a word of encouragement? Paul begins in Philippi doing such (Acts 16.40) and continues here in his letter.
9. How do you feel when you receive a note of encouragement?
10. Why is it a good thing to encourage other Christians that you have encountered along life's journey?
11. As you have looked at this beginning work of God in Acts 16 and His continuing work in Philippians the Elders want for you to realize that this work of God had costs to it as well. God's work is always supplied with the resources needed. This week we find ourselves in the same situation we were back at the beginning of August. The response of the church was great in August, but September has lacked. Our desire is to not have to come to you with such each month, but we know that God's work must be supplied with what is needed. How does God do this? He desires to supply His work through His obedient children. In fact, as you look at the close of Philippians this is exactly what He did in the church at Philippi. Paul says, *You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia (Acts 16), no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving*

but you alone (4.15). We don't want to simply tell you what we could be doing or what we will have to cut if giving continuous to lack. We want the focus to be on obedience. It really comes down to each person or family dealing with obedience to the Lord when it comes to finances. Are you being obedient?

Something Extra: Our desire is for people at The Ridge to be able to articulate the gospel. We do not want us all to have the same script, but we do want to make sure there is understanding of it and an ability to share it. Encourage those in your group to take sometime this week and write out *what the gospel is*. Then ask them to bring it back next time you meet. As a leader read over them. This helps you gain some knowledge where your group is and some teaching they need. Then next week take some time to explain the gospel.