



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 4 WEEK 2

25 October 2018

Kingdom converts

‘...he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.’

Acts 16:34 (NIV)

Icebreaker

What was the main reason that you turned to Christ?

Introduction

In Acts 16, Luke records three surprising conversions – the conversion of Lydia, a clairvoyant slave-girl, and a jailor. In this study, we will look at what these conversions have in common, how they are different, and why this is significant.

Discussion

- Read Acts 16:11-40 and notice the conversions of Lydia, the slave girl, and the jailor. What stands out to you?
- How did Lydia come to Christ (Acts 16:13-15)?
She came to Christ through Paul's preaching of the Scriptures.
- How did the slave-girl come to Christ (Acts 16:16-18)?
She met the Lord through a power encounter with God and was delivered from demonic torment.
- How did the Philippian jailor come to Christ (Acts 16:25-34)?
He saw the example of Paul and Silas who worshipped the Lord in jail despite their wrongful treatment. When the prison doors opened, Paul and Silas used their influence to prevent the prisoners from escaping which would have cost the jailor his life. Their example of respect for the law and kindness to the jailor in the midst of his crisis won his heart.
- Compare and contrast the lives and conversions of Lydia, the slave-girl, and the jailor. Consider aspects such as race, social, and economic standing, their mental states and needs, and how they came to Christ. Use a study Bible to dig a bit deeper.

Lydia	The slave-girl	The jailor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foreigner from Asia Minor ● Businessperson, wealthy ● Respectable, pillar in community, wise ● Moral and religious person; loved the Bible ● Intellectual need ● Came to Christ through preaching of the Word ● Jesus was presented as the Messiah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Native Greek ● Slave, no economic power ● No social standing; deranged ● Immoral and superstitious person – No knowledge of the truth ● Deep spiritual and emotional need ● Came to Christ through a power encounter ● Jesus was presented as a deliverer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Philippian, probably Roman ● Middle class civil servant ● Ordinary working man ● Not necessarily a moral or immoral person – somewhere in-between ● Desire to have what Paul and Silas had ● Came to Christ through the example set by Paul and Silas. ● Jesus was presented as the One who strengthens you to face the toughest times

- Paul must have converted many people on his journeys. Why did Luke choose to highlight these three conversions in this chapter?

He did this to show that despite the extreme racial, social, economic and psychological differences, these individuals were transformed by the same gospel and became part of the same church. The gospel is for 'respectable' people, 'messed up' people, and for everyone in-between!

- How does this influence the way that we live?

The gospel is for all of us, and it unites all of us! When we present the gospel to people we must consider where they are at and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to discern what their specific needs are.

Prayer

- 'The Lord opened [Lydia's] heart to respond to Paul's message.' (Acts 16:14) God plays a pivotal role in opening up people's hearts to the truth of the gospel. Pray that the Lord would open the hearts of those in your circles of influence who do not know Him.

- Pray that the Lord would open your eyes to see the harvest. Spend some time waiting on the Lord. What is He saying to you?
- Ask the Lord for the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 to operate in your life that you would be able to minister to the felt needs of the people He brings across your path.