

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Acts Series*

These questions are for the **August 23, 2020** sermon, "At the Riverside." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 16:11-15) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER HOW GOD ADVANCES HIS PURPOSES, NOTE . . .

1. The surprising appointments he schedules (11-13)
  - a. When God restricts your movement, it's for the purpose of redirecting your path.
    - i. God may say "no" to good, kingdom-building desires in your heart.
    - ii. When he says no, pause on the pathway, but remain faithful to him.
  - b. In the midst of the "no," God brings new relationships to his servants.
    - i. We are not tourists to simply "take it in," but heralds who proclaim Christ.
    - ii. God sets appointments for us. They appear accidental but are so purposeful!
2. The open hearts he produces (14)
  - a. Note how God is positioning and using capable and influential women in the church.
    - i. Lydia is from Thyatira (in the region Paul wanted to go but God would not allow)
    - ii. God is bringing people from the nations to Paul (just like he does today)
  - b. God work sovereign grace in Lydia's heart. Paul is faithful, and God does the work!
3. The clear evidences he provides (15)
  - a. Lydia desires to be baptized.
  - b. Lydia desires to use her ample resources in the service of God's kingdom.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Paul may have been frustrated that there were no synagogues in Philippi, but he kept working in faithful ministry. He embraced a smaller, less religious and "female-only" audience. How has God changed your "audience" during COVID? Have you embraced it? Have you been joyfully faithful? How has the smaller audience produced ministry fruit?
2. Based on #1, above: Name one new person in your life since March of this year. How can we pray for you as you seek to help this person to know God?
3. Based on #2, above: God brings people to us (in Sheboygan County) from other cultures. They have different backgrounds, languages, colors and traditions. How has your prayer life been energized when God brings different cultures to Sheboygan County? Have you made any new acquaintances? How has God burdened you for a certain region of the world?
4. Based on #3, above: When God is at work, we will not have to convince people of every step they should take in following after him. The Spirit will be at work. They will have a hunger for God's Word, a desire to be baptized and a willingness toward people. Where do you see God at work like this in someone's heart? Where do you long to see God at work like this?