

Loving Our Community
Loving God, Loving Others, Making Disciples
Acts 16:25-40
10-10-21

Jeremiah 29:7 – “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

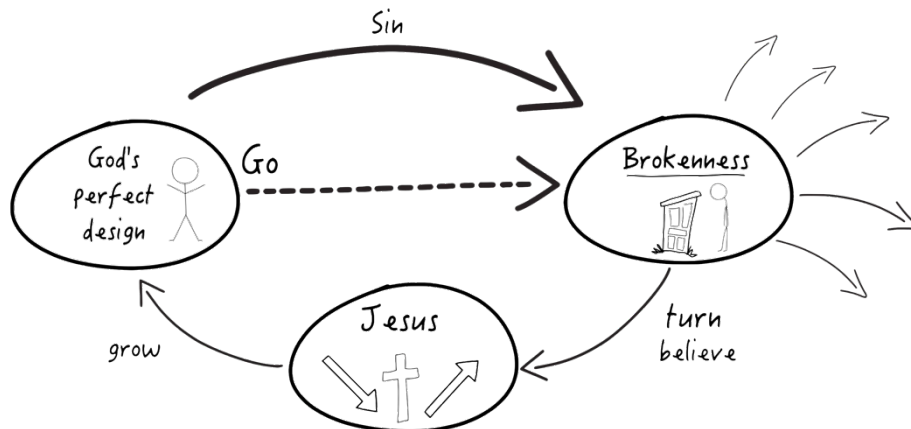
I. Seek FFG People.

Ephesians 2:1-3, 13 – “...you were dead in...your sins...You who were far off (from God)...”

Acts 16:13-15 – “And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us...come to my house and stay.”

II. Proclaim the Good News.

Acts 16:16-18 – “As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.’ And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And it came out that very hour.”



III. Pay the Price.

Acts 16:19-24 – “But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers...The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates...And when (the soldiers) they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison...he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

IV. Live Joyfully in God.

Acts 16:25-36 – “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken... ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’...and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God...”

Acts 16:40 – “So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.”

Going Deeper This Week

1. What is the Gospel?
2. What is a "spirit of divination" (Acts 16:16)? How is she different from the psychics, witches, and others who engage in fortune telling today?
3. What was the real reason for Paul and Silas getting "dragged into the marketplace" (Acts 16:19)?
4. Why would the prisoners and jailer listen to Paul and Silas?
5. Why would "the keeper of the prison" try to "kill himself" (Acts 16:27)? Why did he run and fall "down trembling before Paul and Silas" (Acts 16:29)?
6. According to Paul and Silas, what would it take for the jailer to have eternal life?
7. Play the 3 Circles video from Sunday and discuss. Draw the 3 Circles diagram and practice as a group.
8. Pray for someone to know Christ and that you would get an opportunity to speak to someone this week.