



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week One
Philippians 1:1-6 & Acts 16

PRAY

Take time **before** your discussion to pray with and for one another. Be sure to write down the things you'll be praying for so you can continue to pray for your group throughout the week.

→ *If you're meeting virtually, use the Chat feature to write out these requests as they are shared. Use that list as a reference during the prayer time (and you can copy & paste it for your reference later in the week).*

INTRODUCTION

How do you typically respond when something doesn't go the way you expected? How has that response changed (if at all) over the years?

REVIEW ACTS 16

What stopped Paul's attempts to take the gospel into Asia?

How were they persuaded to go on to Macedonia?

Has the Holy Spirit ever blocked your plans? Talk about that experience.

What do we learn from this chapter about the make-up of Philippi? At the time, would this have given Paul and his companions more or less confidence?

After the earthquake in v. 26, the jailer asks his prisoners an important question. Their answer likely surprised him. How does your life reflect the fact that there is nothing you can **do** to be saved?

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:1-6

What can we glean about the situation in the Philippian church from Paul's encouragement to them in these opening verses?

Why might they have been concerned about God's ability to finish what he had started among them?

How can you relate to this sense of hopelessness?

APPLY IT

Pastor Joshua shared that "**self-improvement** is no more God's plan than **self-salvation...**" Are there areas of your life where you find yourself trying to **do** something, rather than trusting the Lord to continue to work He's begun in you?

What might "living by grace" look like for you this week?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take time to pray for one another. Ask the Lord to grant each of you a sense of his purpose, steadfast love and care as you endure the obstacles you're facing. Trust that He will, by grace, complete the work He has begun in you.

BIBLE // PRAYER // LIFE TOGETHER // MISSION // MULTIPLICATION