

Aweigh
Acts 16
October 24, 2021
Next Steps

OPENING PRAYER:

Interrupt us, O God, with your presence. Intrude upon our preoccupation, our restlessness, our discontent and our boredom that we might center our hearts and minds on your Word as it is read and proclaimed. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree or disagree with in the sermon this week?
- Where did you see God this week?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Acts 16:11-15.

- What jumps out at you in this scripture?
- What are your thoughts on Lydia? What words would you use to describe her?
- Lydia's place of prayer was by the river? What is your favorite place to meet God?
- Lydia is mentioned as one of the first house churches. She gave her house to worship God. What are you willing to give to God?

Read Acts 16:16-40.

- What speaks to you?
- Paul heals the girl. What are the ramifications of this healing? What is so threatening in this situation?
- How would you feel if you were Paul in this story?
- If you were the jailor, what would you think about this entire situation?
- How does this story relate to your situation? What will you learn?

NEXT STEPS:

- Where is your next step in ministry?
- If asked, "What must I do to be saved?" How would you answer?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

We turn to you, O God, cleansed of our deep despair,
For we are in your love and know your gentle care.
We know that we are weak, and prone to hesitate -
Our fears and foolishness often keep us fully awake.
We need your tender care to lead us on our way,
And so we turn to you upon this holy day.
Forget our foolish past, forgive our selfishness,
And lead us ever more into your blessedness.
May we become as one in devotion to your name,
And may our lives reveal your everlasting flame.
Our joy will know no bounds so long as we remain
In true dependence on your blessed, holy name.

-Louis Pratt, Sing Praises to His Name (Lima, Ohio: C.S.S. Publishing Co., Inc., 1986), 106-107.