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## What If This Isn't All About Us?

### A story about Christians in conflict (once again):

Acts 16:11-40

### What Paul & Silas knew, because of WHO they knew:

Acts 16, Philippians 2

- When it comes to our **PERSONAL** journey, every **PERSON** counts.
- If every **PERSON** counts, then all of our **ACTIONS** and **REACTIONS** count.
- God's **PURPOSE** is more important than our **RIGHTS**.
- Every **EARTHQUAKE** is an **OPPORTUNITY** to set others free.

## Life Group Study Questions

For the week of September 27, 2020

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather:

... *always be 10 minutes late or always be 20 minutes early?*

... *have unlimited, international, first-class tickets or never have to pay for food at a restaurant?*

... *be without your phone for a week or without transportation for a month?*

2. This weekend we heard about the importance of being able to set aside our rights in order to put others first. Of course, sometimes we find that isn't too hard, while other times we totally miss the mark. When is it easy for you to serve someone? When do you find it more challenging?

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Putting others first and loving others sacrificially can be no small challenge with all life throws at us. What motivation and guidance do the following verses give when it comes to putting this kind of love into action?

#### **2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

#### **Galatians 5:13-15 *New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

#### **John 15:9-14 *New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command.

When it comes to the "freedom" talked about in the Galatians passage, do you need to be more careful using your freedom or less tied to the rules?

When it comes to living out, "It isn't all about me," which one of the verses above is most motivating to you and why?

2. Based on Paul's skills and abilities from his past, there were many reasons for him to be confident. What do you learn in Philippians 3:4-11 about Paul's attitude regarding the strengths in his life?

**Philippians 3:4-11 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

There's nothing wrong with being confident in our abilities. However, when our abilities get in the way of putting Jesus first, it becomes a problem. In fact, confidence in ourselves and who we are in Christ is a key to being able to serve others. When it comes to your own self-confidence, which of the following can trap you and affect your ability to serve and put others first?

- Over confidence
- Lack of confidence
- Unaware of how God can work
- Other

3. Humility is a character quality that is vital to putting others first. It allows us to have the vision to see God at work. How do the following verses help us evaluate if we really are humble, as well as understand who we are and who God is?

**James 3:13 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

**Romans 3:23 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

**Deuteronomy 8:17-18 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." <sup>18</sup> But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

**Proverbs 15:32-33 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>32</sup> Those who disregard discipline despise themselves,  
but the one who heeds correction gains understanding.

<sup>33</sup> Wisdom's instruction is to fear the LORD,  
and humility comes before honor.

Rank the passages above in order from one to four according to which is most helpful for you when putting humility into action?

## TAKING IT HOME

**SERVICE CHECK:** Is there somewhere or someone you need to adjust your posture toward and serve in new way? Family, friends, those you disagree with, other?

Looking back at your notes and study questions, what's most important for you to remember and why?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

**WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.

## NORTH COAST CLASSES

Visit our website at [northcoastchurch.com/classes](http://northcoastchurch.com/classes) for more info.

[United in Marriage](#) – Begins October 5

[The Unknown Road: An Unemployment Class](#)  
One-Night Class on October 5

[Preparing for Marriage](#) – Begins October 12



## COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is a ministry of North Coast Church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out [NorthCoastCommunityService.org](http://NorthCoastCommunityService.org)