



# PRESS ON

A LETTER FROM PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

## The Supernatural Advance of the Gospel

Discussion Guide | Sept. 13, 2020

Before you begin, please read Philippians 1:1-2 and Acts 16:6-34

1. Share something interesting or funny about yourself growing up that others in the group won't know about you.
2. Why is knowing someone's "backstory" so valuable in helping you interact with them and relate to them well?
3. Acts 16:11-34 gives us the "backstory" on Philippi and the planting of the church there. Identify 4-5 observations from the passage, about the planting of the church in the city of Philippi. (For example: What are the high points of the passage? What stands out to you? What events seem especially noteworthy?)
4. How do you see God at work in this passage, as the gospel message moves into Philippi?
5. In Acts 16, we see a successful businesswoman (Lydia) and a distressed jailer place their faith in Jesus. Why is it important to see that the gospel speaks to those who are outwardly successful AND to those who are in distressed situations?
6. The gospel is still advancing supernaturally today! Share any short stories that come to mind about how this is happening today. (Maybe this is a story from your own life, or a story about someone who serving Jesus around the globe, etc.)
7. How does seeing the advance of the gospel into Philippi give you vision and motivation for the advance of the gospel in your spheres of influence?
8. The book of Philippians was written approximately 10 years after Acts 16. Paul didn't only care that the gospel was planted in Philippi, he also cared about the ongoing nurture of the church there. (Hence the writing of the letter to the Philippians!) Why is the long-term health of particular local churches so important?
9. This message begins a series on the book of Philippians (the title of the series is "Press On). Is reading Philippians brand new for you, or have you read through this book of the New Testament before? What are you hoping to get out of the time we spend in Philippians?
10. **"Press On" Challenge** – "Keep your eyes open to how God is working around you. Who can you pray with, or tell about how Jesus is working in your life?"