

THE BOOK OF ACTS

welcome to the journey

Session 5: 'People of Peace'

IN - helping a sense of belonging...

You might want to try this ice-breaker. Each person takes it in turn to speak for 1 min on any subject they love talking about! What do you find really easy to talk about? How easy do you find it talking about faith? What hinders you?

UP - hearing from God and growing...

Read Acts 16:1-15

- What were the steps that led Paul to meet with Lydia?

(If you have a Bible map, you might want to map the journey).

- What had Paul done, what had God done?
- Who was involved with Paul? and why was that significant?

Paul was led to a certain place (he never intended going there!). But when he arrived he tried to find people that he could at least in some way relate to. There were 4 elements that came into play:

Movement (Paul did not remain static), **Time** (God's timing), **Team** (he was with others), **Person of Peace** (out of a whole city - one person responded).

How do these 4 elements relate to where you live and work? What can you learn from Paul's experience?

OUT - impacting others...

Who are the people around me that God has already begun to work in? Who warms to me? Who is interested in what I have to say? What is the next step I need to take with that person / people?

LIFEGroup
Notes

Spend some time in prayer.

BIBLE READING: Acts 16:6-15

6 They traveled through the region of Phrygia and Galatia because the Holy Spirit did not let them preach the message in the province of Asia. 7 When they reached the border of Mysia, they tried to go into the province of Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. 8 So they traveled right on through Mysia and went to Troas. 9 That night Paul had a vision in which he saw a Macedonian standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" 10 As soon as Paul had this vision, we got ready to leave for Macedonia, because we decided that God had called us to preach the Good News to the people there.

11 We left by ship from Troas and sailed straight across to Samothrace, and the next day to Neapolis. 12 From there we went inland to Philippi, a city of the first district of Macedonia; it is also a Roman colony. We spent several days there. 13 On the Sabbath we went out of the city to the riverside, where we thought there would be a place where Jews gathered for prayer. We sat down and talked to the women who gathered there. 14 One of those who heard us was Lydia from Thyatira, who was a dealer in purple cloth. She was a woman who worshiped God, and the Lord opened her mind to pay attention to what Paul was saying. 15 After she and the people of her house had been baptized, she invited us, "Come and stay in my house if you have decided that I am a true believer in the Lord." And she persuaded us to go.