



REIMAGINE

WEEK 2 - HOW IT ALL BEGAN OVERVIEW

To better understand Paul's overwhelming love and joy for the Philippian church, it is helpful to remember how their journey together began. Acts 16 tells the story of Paul's first visit to Philippi and the rag-tag group of believers who founded the church: a middle-class cloth merchant who hosted the city's first church gatherings in her home, a fortune-telling slave-girl delivered of demons, and a jailer spared from suicide by the graciousness of his Judean prisoners... Despite opposition in the city, Paul's ministry there was fruitful, and gave him newfound confidence in God's mission to bring salvation to the gentiles of Europe. Paul's encouragement to these Philippian believers six years later, after these beautiful events had faded into memory, recall the joy and community of those early days. "Make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose" (Phil. 2:2).

At Grace Church we too have fond memories of our early years, and yet our community must chart a new course through a world that has changed in many ways. As we consider what the path ahead holds for us, let us never forget what made us who we are: the fellowship, love, and compassion which knit our community together in the first place.

*Make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another,
and working together with one mind and purpose.*

Philippians 2:2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever jumped in where the Holy Spirit was leading? Share about that with your group.
2. Read [Acts 16:6-10](#).
 - a. How did Paul and Silas go where the Holy Spirit was leading and not where they would choose to go themselves?
 - b. Why do you think the Spirit prevented them from going to some places?
3. How can you tell if the Holy Spirit is preventing you from going places or is leading you to go in a certain direction?
4. Read [Acts 16:13-34](#). Describe some of the people who were part of the early church in Philippi, and the hospitality that Paul and his companions received.
5. Why is the "origin story" of the church in Philippi important? (see also [Philippians 1:6-9](#))
6. What can we learn by looking at the "origin story" or history of Grace Church?
7. Barry asked us to consider: how often do you go looking for where the Holy Spirit is moving? And how often do you trust your own judgment on what to do next?