

Godspeed

“Called into Darkness”

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Home Community Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or write your own questions.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-5 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Have the group thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank the Lord for the victory we have when we receive the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, pray that the Holy Spirit would release the stronghold the Devil has on anyone in the group and in the community. Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to lead us and give us the ability to be faithful to His calling so that we may follow Him wherever He decides to take us.

Check-In: (5 minutes) Described the acts of kindness or small promptings that the Holy Spirit has placed on your heart over the past week. What made it easier or more difficult to be faithful to these promptings?

Discussion: (30 minutes)

What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the third week of the new series titled *Godspeed*. Pastor Danny focuses our attention on Acts 16 and asks how the church should participate in the Spiritual battle around us. Pastor Danny challenges the church to follow in Paul’s footsteps as he journeys boldly with the Holy Spirit into Macedonia, a place where the gospel had never reached and their cultural beliefs had been built to refute the message of the gospel.

“The spirit of God is more powerful than any entity that may come against you!” – Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

- *Read Acts 16:1-10; Matthew 10:16-20, 26-31:* Pastor Danny starts his sermon by pointing out that like Paul, we may receive the Holy Spirit's call to enter a place of spiritual darkness. What stands out to you about the Spirit's work in these passages as you compare them to your experience with God's promptings? What are the spiritual forces that you believe are at work in your personal life and in your immediate surroundings? What can you do to increase your radar for the spiritual battles around your home, workplace, etc.?
- *Read Acts 16:11-24; Ephesians 6:10-20:* Next, Pastor Danny uses Paul's interaction with the Macedonian spirit of *Pythos* to emphasize that the Holy Spirit can easily win any spiritual battle. Where are you on the spectrum between "unaware of spiritual warfare" and "overly consumed with spiritual warfare?" What are the ways in which you can remind yourself that the Holy Spirit, which you possess by faith, has power over darkness? What can you do this week to walk boldly into the spiritual darkness of your home, your neighborhood, or the East Bay Area?
- *Read Acts 16:25-34; 1 John 4:1-6:* Pastor Danny uses Paul's miraculous prison escape to show us that the Holy Spirit wields the power over every realm in this world. What do you fear most about taking your next bold step on your journey with the Holy Spirit? How can we as a group come along side of you to pray for and overcome that fear? How does the power of the Holy Spirit change the way you perceive Paul's story in Chapter 16 and your own story today?
- *Read Acts 4:35- 40; John 15:12-13:* Finally, Pastor Danny points to the jailer and the brothers in the church to show that the Holy Spirit orchestrated each event so that His power and salvation would be known to those in Macedonia. What does the Holy Spirit's ambition to lead Paul directly into darkness and prison say about the Holy Spirit's love for the jailer and the people of Macedonia? What is the Holy Spirit saying to those in the group that may be surrounded by darkness today? Who is someone that comes to mind who is in darkness that the Holy Spirit may be sending you to love and lay down your life for? What is your first step to participate in the work of the Holy Spirit for these people?

Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank Jesus for laying down his life to rescue us from darkness. Pray that the Holy Spirit would make us aware of the spiritual war going on around us. Pray that we would focus on abiding in the God's power over these spirits waging war against our souls. Finally, as the group goes out this week, ask the Holy Spirit would give us the courage to follow the Lord's prompting, even if it leads us into darkness.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-The Holy Spirit calls us to extend his presence into places of spiritual darkness: Throughout the week, pray for the strongholds over the people you are led to engage with by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jot down the darkness that you see surrounding your own circumstances and confidently, command them to leave in the name of Jesus just as Paul did! Be sure to share your experiences next week!

-The Holy Spirit can easily win any spiritual battle He desires: Throughout the week, reflect on the amount of credit you give to dark spiritual forces in this world. Pray throughout the week that each member in your group would have the faith that dark spiritual forces DO leave in the name of Jesus and there will be a change when the Holy Spirit is present!

-The Holy Spirit's power extends to every realm in this world: Throughout the week, commit to taking one small action step that involves a risk you would not have otherwise taken. Identify the ways in which the Holy Spirit is present in this action and share your experience with your group next week!

-The Holy Spirit invites us to partner with God in the work of ministry: Throughout the week, be sure to contact one another and continue to pray for boldness! Remind each other that everyone is in this together! Begin to strategize one unique way your group can work together to accomplish the mission the Holy Spirit has placed on your heart.