helping people **meet Jesus, become like Him** and be equipped **to impact** the local and global community

**York St Small Groups**

**Sermon Based Studies**

SUNDAY 29th March 2020

**Courageous:**

**where does courage come from?**

## Acts 16:16-40



**Please note that these studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday Sermon and also to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing and supper.**

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**GETTING STARTED**

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**Q1**. Can you think of a time when you did something brave or something that pushed your comfort zone?

**Q2**. Courage can't take place without fear, to have a risk of failure, of danger or of rejection. Who do you know who you would say is brave or courageous - someone you admire?

**INTO THE WORD**

**Q3**. *If you don’t know Paul's story read* **Acts 9:1-19**

Paul had a radical encounter with Jesus and his life changed forever, as followers of Christ we have all had encounters with Christ, some through scripture, others through other followers of Jesus and others through the Holy spirit. As we call Jesus the ‘lord’ or ‘master’ of our lives, what ‘obligation’ do we have to our loving master and how do we live that out?

**Q4.** Read Acts 16:16-28

Paul and Silas were living out their ‘obligation’, their conviction and their purpose out of obedience to the love that Jesus showed them in restoring their relationship with a loving God. We see in this passage that when other prisoners would run away, the Christians stayed behind and showed LOVE to the one who had just put them in chains… What do we feel like we want to ‘run’ away from today? What does Jesus call us to ‘stay’ in when it comes to His plans for our lives that go against our human nature?

**GOING DEEPER**

**Q5.** Read Acts 16:29-34

The things that we would run away from can be the things that God wants us to run to… The jailer in this part of history not only has his physical life saved (to have a prisoner escape from a Roman prison demanded the life of the jailer to take their place). But also saved the spiritual life not only of the jailer but their entire family, being immediately baptised and filled with joy! Fear can rob us of joy, however when we have purpose in our call in life we not only get to experience joy ourselves but also that of those around us. How can you share joy with others this week?

**Q6.** Read Acts 16:35-40

We can think that the world is out of hand, that things seem dark at the moment. Last Sunday Tim spoke of how we have purpose, praise, power, and perseverance because of Jesus' call on our lives and in that we can be courageous. Acts 16 ends with an encouragement that even in the wrongs of this world justice can be done, and even in the midst of hardship our purpose gives us hope and reason for pressing on. Paul and Silas continue to bring Joy to the world because of their courage.

**Prayer**

Loving God, help us to remember the purpose we have in You, help us to lean into the hope that comes from our relationship with Christ, empower us to spread the joy that comes from Your Holy Spirit. Bring us closer to one another as we continue Your mission for Your people, help us to be courageous in the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.