

## 4. Obvious Places

Study Guide

### Introductory Discussion

(10 minutes)

Have you ever wanted to try a new experience? (Maybe a hobby, cuisine, or culture.) How did you go about accessing it? Did you find what you were looking for? What was the experience like?

### Discuss the Text

(10 minutes)

[Acts 16:11–15, 40](#)

Prior to watching the video, ask two or three people in the group to read the passage in a different translation. Some translations to consider (these are available in the YouVersion Bible app or other apps, or use your own hardcopy Bibles):

**ESV** (English Standard Version) or **LSB** (Legacy Standard Bible)

**CSB** (Christian Standard Bible) or **NIV** (New International Version)

**NLT** (New Living Translation) or **GNB** (Good News Bible)

Then discuss the following:

- As a group, retell the story without looking at the text.
- Is there anything you don't understand? (See if the group has any wisdom)
- Does anything stand out to you?
- Imagine you're with Paul doing something similar in Perth! What do you imagine this scene looks like?
- What can we learn from this passage about following Jesus today?

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# Teaching Video

(20 minutes)

Watch the accompanying teaching video <4. Obvious Places>

## Leaders Notes

### I. Finding a Person of Peace

- It's not meant to be rocket science, look for the "navigation lights" - like, listen, serve
- Use relational pathways - friends, family, acquaintances
- Be alert to the Holy Spirit's promptings

### II. Look in Obvious Places

- Paul looked among Jews and God-fearers in Philippi
- He went where he expected to find people praying by the river
- Be deliberate in seeking out people of peace
- Examples: universities, community centers, etc.

### III. Have a Conversation

- Paul sat down and talked with the women at the river
- Lydia listened to him and served him by hosting
- Her heart was opened by the Lord

### IV. Partner with the Holy Spirit

- Discern where God is at work through prayer
- Follow promptings, look for open doors

### V. Start Somewhere

- Begin with people you already know
- Go to obvious places and start a conversation
- You don't need all the answers now

## Discussion

- Did anything stand out to you in the teaching video?
- Where are some of the obvious places you'd expect to find people of peace?
- What do you think stops Christians from seeking out people of peace in obvious places?
- What role do you think the Holy Spirit plays in this process? And how might we discern where he is at work?
- What will you do as a result of this teaching?

## Pray

Spend a few minutes praying for each other that God will help you identify obvious places and be alert to opportunities to share the gospel and find people of peace there.

If prayer is new to you, simply go around the group and pray for the person on your right, "God, I pray that you will help [name] grow in [name whatever it is they said]. Amen."