



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month:	Where Do We Go From Here?
Text for the Week:	Acts 16:16-40
Message for the Week:	“A Convicting Spirit”
Theme for the Week:	Making Jesus Lord of our Life.

Week 26

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Which “Murphy’s Law” is most true in your life?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read [Acts 16:16-40](#) out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

How do you submit to the convicting work and ministry of the Holy Spirit?

Where are you resisting the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Where have you found following the work of the Holy Spirit difficult?

Why is it important for us to seek what is best for the community instead of our own wants and needs? Have you come to this place in your spiritual life?

How have you suffered for the mission of Christ?

How are you/we striving to be more like Jesus?

Are you a bystander or an eyewitness? Are you simply observing or belonging?

“Try It!”

Read Psalm 139. As you do, ask God to shine his searchlight on your life. Where would God place an “X” in your life? Also, ask your spouse, your children, your siblings, parents, or a close friend where they would put an “X” in your life.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer regarding the things God revealed and that you discerned in your time with God today.

Also, spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Amen.

Missional Practice for the Month: Praying with Eyes Open

Normally when we pray, we close our eyes, shut off from the world and focus on what we are saying to God. Praying with eyes open is a missional practice because as we see what is going on around us, the Spirit will prompt us to pray for things that we would probably never have prayed for. We invite you during the month of May, on several different occasions, to go to a public place such as a park, café, school hallway, or shopping center and ask God to help you see what God sees. As God prompts you, pray about what you see. As we begin to pray with our eyes open when we drive to work, shop for groceries, walk the dog, watch our kids ball game, sit in your front yard, etc., God will connect us with the heartbeat of our neighborhood and community, revealing to us his work that we might join with him.

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