

Point Group Notes

Message from 9/29/24

Leaders Guide

Leaders Notes are in RED

1. This week's ministry emphasis is our call to church planting—and the result of our obedience to God's Great Commission. This is a call for me personally to sacrifice, go and give! Feel free to discuss financial sacrifice to the work of the Lord. Look at the Leaders Notes under question 2 for more information.
2. We're getting close to the Men's and Ladies Feasts that will take place at Pastor John's house in October. Make sure your group is SIGNED UP!
3. ATTENDANCE ATTENDANCE ATTENDANCE – Please send them in! We want to know where your people are!

Getting to know you...

1. Let's get to the exciting part! What did you think of Pastor John's announcement? Excited? Nervous? Confused? Let's talk about it!
2. Do you ever feel as though your life was dramatically redirected? What was that like? Tell us the story.
3. How have you seen God show up when things don't go according to your plan?

Quick Review – Have a look at your sermon notes from last week. What stood out to you the most? Did you learn anything new? Did anything said leave you with any questions?

Digging Deeper...

This past Sunday, Pastor John walked us through Acts chapter 16, where Paul, in his journey, is forbidden from going into Asia and is called by the Holy Spirit to head to Macedonia so that the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ can be preached to the Macedonians! This week in Point Group, we will look at the *result* of Paul and Silas' obedience to this call. When faced with a large or difficult task, we can begin to worry that we won't be successful or that "it won't work." Sometimes, we even fall into the trap of thinking what we are about to do won't matter. Let's look at 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 and see how God blessed the obedience of Paul and Silas and how their obedience blessed the international community of believers.



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Read the passage below and answer the following questions.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 ESV

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

1. How does the Macedonian church's joy amid severe trials reveal their spiritual maturity?

Joy is a fruit of the spirit! The more joy someone has as life gets more complicated is a sign that their fruit is more fully grown! Joy like this is a wonderful testament to a complete trust in God that he will handle the situation. When we know our Father has something under control, we maintain our Joy and peace. Joy under trial isn't possible without a level of spiritual maturity.

2. In what ways does their eagerness to give, despite their poverty, demonstrate their deep trust in God's provision?

I don't know about you, but when things start to get complicated, I can't help but have a desire to start to hoard my belongings. It's normal! When we see a big need or are unsure of what's happening around us, our generosity begins to fade. To be able to continue to give when it seems like nothing is left means that you MUST be trusting in someone bigger! Our spiritual maturity is shown when we trust God in our generosity even if it would normally make us nervous, or even if it doesn't make sense.

3. What can we learn from the heart behind the Macedonian church's desire to give to the Lord?

It all comes down to this: They were more concerned with the proclamation of the Gospel and the health of the church community than their dire circumstances. Ultimately, it really can't improve for us once we are saved! We live a more abundant life on earth and have a promise of Heaven to look forward too. Our main goal should be to make heaven crowded no matter the cost to us. That was their heart. "Don't worry about us. You all need help! Let us be *blessed* by helping you!"

4. How do you think Paul and Silas would have felt, considering that this now successful and spiritually mature church plant resulted from a strange redirect by the Holy Spirit in Acts 16?

This will have a variety of responses, but as a Pastor, I can't help but imagine they would have been moved to tears, knowing for sure that their obedience had eternal Kingdom Impact.



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Taking it Home...

1. 2 Cor 8:1-5 directly results from obedience to the Lord from the Apostle Paul. *So, let's dream a little bit...* What would it look like if you and our church all lived in obedience to the call(s) to the ministry we're currently discussing?
I think it's going to be incredible! Imagine the people living their lives *right now* with no knowledge of Jesus that we are going to one day spend eternity with!
2. The first Macedonian call was a call to obedience in evangelism, and the second was a call to generosity and sacrificial giving. Both will be necessary as we embark on this 10-year journey as a church. Which of the two are you grappling with the most? Why?
3. How can your Point Group pray for you as you handle how to apply God's word this week?

