



Session 7: Making Friends and Changing Lives through “Random” Encounters

Consider encounters with people who you’ve met in a way that seems random. Read Acts 16:11-34 and Acts 18:1-4.

Questions to spark discussion based on reading of Acts:

1. How did Paul and his companions meet people in seemingly random encounters?
2. Were Paul and his companions planning on meeting these folks or did they (Paul, Silas, etc.) have something else on their to-do lists?
3. For these various encounters, describe how the circumstances were similar and how they were different.
4. Did Lydia, the slave girl, the jailer, Aquila and Priscilla know anything about Paul and his companions before they met?
5. How did the Holy Spirit influence these situations?
6. What happened as the result of these encounters?

Questions to spark discussion based on Acts and personal experiences:

1. Describe memorable experiences with seemingly random people.
2. Were you at peace when talking with them? Describe how you felt during your interactions.
3. Have you developed long-term relationships with those whom you encountered or were the encounters one-time events?
4. Did you act welcoming or reserved in your interactions? Were you pleased with or do you regret how you behaved?
5. Do you think God placed these people in your path?
6. How do you tell if someone is safe or not safe? What signs do you look for? How do you think God wants you to act with strangers?

Purpose: Notice how the early Christians interacted with strangers and how God guided them in their encounters with people.

Desired Outcome: Become open to engaging and responding to people you encounter; be prepared to share your faith with them.

Big Idea: Listening to the Holy Spirit can lead to meaningful encounters.