



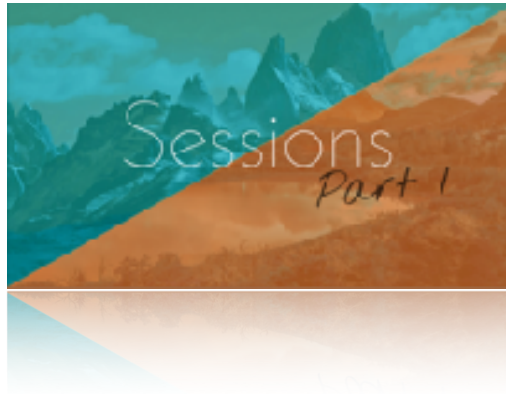
In our new series "Sessions" we take time to learn from one of the more influential leaders in the faith: Paul. Over the next 3 months we will work our way through the Book of Philippians as we continue to move into a deeper understanding of sacrifice and service. This week we will begin with "Odd Beginnings" by asking the question: Who are these people and why does Paul care about them so much? Acts 16 gives us the bizarre story of how Paul helped start this church. **What We See:** The Gospel creates a community with no barriers and no preferences.

### **Lesson Prep:**

Main Bible Passages: Phil. 1:3, 8; Acts 16:11 - 40

### Prep Questions:

- Take time to read through Philippians for yourself over the next month. Begin to prepare your thoughts and ideas around the wholistic message of this book.
- Why did Paul write this letter? What do you think the heart behind the letter was?
- If you received a personal letter from a modern leader what type of input would you want it to contain? How do you think the church of Philippi utilized this letter from Paul?



**Special Note:** This week we will spend the whole time in breakout groups discussing the key concept "The Gospel creates a community with no barriers and no preferences." Spend time developing relationships with students, insure every student feels known and a part of your group this week.

**Breakout discussion (10 Min):**

- What was the most interesting part to how the church in Philippi began? What stood out to you?
- Why do you think Paul wrote this letter to the church in Philippi? How do you think they received a letter from Paul? What do you think the impact of his communication was?
- How do we form barriers in the church today? How does the Gospel remove these barriers? How can we move past our preference to experience a more biblical church experience?

**Next Steps (5 Min):** One major barrier students face is "clicks" or friend groups. Finish your discussion with students discussing how to be more inclusive to new students and with those outside their group. How can they move past awkward?

**Prayer (2 Min):** Finish by collecting prayer requests, have a student close your time in prayer.