



Going Deeper Questions
College Outreach
Rev. Dominique DuBois Gilliard

Sermon Scripture Passage

Acts 16:16-28

Fun icebreaker question

If you were to start looking for a new home or apartment, what are your "must haves"?

Discipleship Cycle: Debrief & Interpret

Last week's Discipleship Cycle opportunity was to pray for NESM and the God-given work they're doing to love and serve seafarers. Did anyone do the "Respond Actively" exercise last week? What did you learn about God and yourself through that experience?

Quick Review: What stood out to you from this week's passage?

Looking back at your notes from this week's passage and sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

My Story

1) Churches don't often talk about prisons on Sunday mornings. Read Proverbs 31:8-9, Matthew 25:31-46, and Hebrews 13:3. Why do you think so many Christians today don't see "social justice" issues being central to the

gospel? How do we hold matters of the soul and society together? In your experience, what keeps the Church from speaking out against injustices of the day?

2) Rev. Gilliard shared about the prison system in the U.S. Did any part of his sermon stand out to you or hit a little closer to home?

3) Why do you think racial perceptions of criminality are so different from reality?

Dive Deeper

1) How does the story in Acts 16:16-40 help you define and understand privilege?

2) What privileges are connected with citizenship?

3) Why was it important for Paul and Silas to endure what people without the privilege of Roman citizenship had to endure on a daily basis?

4) What's the difference between retributive and restorative justice? How can these different kinds of justice play out in society?

5) Why would the prison system be central to the heart of God? Why does this need to matter for Christians?

6) How could you leverage your privilege to create systemic accountability and change? How could you leverage your privilege and influence to help reform and deconstruct our criminal justice system, which is also riddled with biases?

*Take some time as a Lifegroup to pray through the prayer prompts in the "Fast, Pray, Love" Guidebook for Week 4: Incarcerated Individuals

Discipleship Cycle: Respond Actively

What is one way this week that you can partner in Christ's mission to free the captives?

A special question for couples and families

1 in every 14 kids in the U.S. has a parent who has been affected by the criminal justice system. The numbers are exacerbated by race and poverty. How can we talk with our kids in a way that de-stigmatizes individuals who have been incarcerated or their loved ones, and instead helps them see everyone, even those in prison, as beloved children of God?

Here's a video that Sesame Street made for families who are dealing with incarceration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3sf7O5mrIY>
