

For the week of February 19, 2017
Pastor: Andy Burnham

Unlikely People

21st Week in the series *Sent: Living the Mission of the Church*

Acts 16: 11-40

God often uses unlikely or ordinary people to accomplish his purposes. In today's passage, we'll be looking at the stories of three very unlikely people whom God used in the founding of the church at Philippi--the stories of a Gentile businesswoman, a demon-possessed slave girl, and a Roman jailer.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God often chooses unlikely or ordinary people to accomplish his purposes—people like Lydia, the demon-possessed slave girl, and the Roman jailer? Why doesn't he simply pick people who are prominent, powerful, and influential?
2. Have you ever thought of yourself as too unlikely or too ordinary to be used by God—too unlikely or ordinary to make any real difference? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever thought of others as too unlikely or ordinary either to be used by God or even to be saved at all—homeless men and women, the Tarot card readers, addicts and alcoholics, ex-felons, etc.? Or, to put it differently, have you ever been tempted to write certain people off—to consider certain people beyond hope, beyond God's ability to do anything significant with their lives?
4. Do you consider PBC a place that welcomes people whom the world considers to be unlikely or ordinary? Is PBC a place where the marginalized and the disenfranchised, the overlooked, and the downtrodden feel at home? Explain?