

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

For January 17, 2021 sermon:

***Empowered (Book of Acts): "The impossible is possible"***

**Warm up:** (Questions for discussion)

What is happening in your life that is helping you trust God more?

How are you showing God's love to someone in your life right now?

What is a fear or concern that keeps you from sharing your faith?

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

1. When someone is a really "good" person and lives a life of service and generosity but does not claim to follow Jesus, it can be difficult for us to imagine that they are very far from salvation. On the other hand, when someone is really awful, selfish and obviously sinful, it can be difficult for us to imagine that they can come to Jesus for forgiveness and truly change. What does the Bible say about BOTH of these?

Romans 3:10-12    Matthew 9:9-13    Romans 5:6-8

Titus 3:4-6    Philippians 3:4-9

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1 Timothy 1:12-17

3. Paul includes an interesting aspect of his testimony in Acts 26:12-15. The voice of Jesus said (V. 14) "It is hard for you to kick against the goads." Before you read on, what is your understanding of that statement?

Definition: "To goad" – Prod or poke with a sharp object. To nudge or push someone or an animal in a direction. "Kick against the goads" is a metaphor for what the Holy Spirit had been doing to Paul all along. He likely heard Jesus teach and may have been a part of the conspiracy against him. Would have been present at the trials of Peter and John and certainly was at the stoning of Stephen. And now he was on a mission to arrest all those who followed Christ. But the Holy Spirit was "goading" Paul all the while. He was tugging at Paul's heart; telling him there was more to this than he was seeing. Read John 16:7-11 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 about the Holy Spirit's ministry.

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

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