

Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For March 21, 2021 sermon:

***Empowered (Book of Acts): "Flawed humans and a sovereign God"***

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

- What was the "issue" in biggest fight you ever had? Was it ultimately resolved?  
How has forgiveness (or unforgiveness) impacted your life?  
If you were in jail or prison, how likely is it that you would hold a "hymn sing"?

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

1. Sometimes the biggest "crashes" in our lives comes after the biggest victory. Why do you think this happens? Paul and Barnabas get into a fight and break a meaningful friendship after winning a huge victory for Gentile followers of Jesus. How does the Bible say we should handle our relationships in the Body of Christ?

1 Peter 4:7-10    1 Corinthians 13:4-6    Romans 12:9-18

2. "A good reputation goes a long way." When Paul arrived in Lystra, he learned of a young man named Timothy. Timothy had a godly mother and grandmother (Jews) and a Gentile father we don't really know anything about, but many people in the region where he lived spoke very highly of him to Paul and he was invited to be a part of Paul's team. How can we build the right kind of reputation?

Matthew 5:14-16    Proverbs 22:1    Matthew 5:33-37    1 Timothy 3:2-7

3. Paul and Silas received very inhumane treatment as a result of the charges presented against them by the "owner" of the demon possessed girl. If you read through Acts, it should make an impact on you that real persecution never seems to really rattle Paul (and I'm sure it physically hurt him as much as anyone. He gets up and returns to the city that just stoned him. He sings in prison, and so much more! Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-27 and reflect upon Paul's suffering in comparison to the things we often complain about.

What should our attitude be toward the slights and obstacles we face?

2 Timothy 3:10-12    John 15:18-21    Matthew 5:9-12    1 Peter 4:12-19

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

The Bible does not say that our emotions are a bad thing...but it warns us that they can lead us to do bad things! Anger, frustration, fear and self-doubt should remind us that we are NOT in control of our lives...even though we often think and act as if we are. And when we fail to respond as we should, it can drive a wedge between us and God (a wedge that we put there). Is there a limitation, a frailty, a tendency that you need to turn over to God as an act of worship and obedience (because you are flawed and He is sovereign)? Do that as you close in prayer together.

Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For March 21, 2021 sermon:

***Empowered (Book of Acts): "Flawed humans and a sovereign God"***

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

- What was the "issue" in biggest fight you ever had? Was it ultimately resolved?  
How has forgiveness (or unforgiveness) impacted your life?  
If you were in jail or prison, how likely is it that you would hold a "hymn sing"?

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

1. Sometimes the biggest "crashes" in our lives comes after the biggest victory. Why do you think this happens? Paul and Barnabas get into a fight and break a meaningful friendship after winning a huge victory for Gentile followers of Jesus. How does the Bible say we should handle our relationships in the Body of Christ?

1 Peter 4:7-10    1 Corinthians 13:4-6    Romans 12:9-18

2. "A good reputation goes a long way." When Paul arrived in Lystra, he learned of a young man named Timothy. Timothy had a godly mother and grandmother (Jews) and a Gentile father we don't really know anything about, but many people in the region where he lived spoke very highly of him to Paul and he was invited to be a part of Paul's team. How can we build the right kind of reputation?

Matthew 5:14-16    Proverbs 22:1    Matthew 5:33-37    1 Timothy 3:2-7

3. Paul and Silas received very inhumane treatment as a result of the charges presented against them by the "owner" of the demon possessed girl. If you read through Acts, it should make an impact on you that real persecution never seems to really rattle Paul (and I'm sure it physically hurt him as much as anyone. He gets up and returns to the city that just stoned him. He sings in prison, and so much more! Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-27 and reflect upon Paul's suffering in comparison to the things we often complain about.

What should our attitude be toward the slights and obstacles we face?

2 Timothy 3:10-12    John 15:18-21    Matthew 5:9-12    1 Peter 4:12-19

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

The Bible does not say that our emotions are a bad thing...but it warns us that they can lead us to do bad things! Anger, frustration, fear and self-doubt should remind us that we are NOT in control of our lives...even though we often think and act as if we are. And when we fail to respond as we should, it can drive a wedge between us and God (a wedge that we put there). Is there a limitation, a frailty, a tendency that you need to turn over to God as an act of worship and obedience (because you are flawed and He is sovereign)? Do that as you close in prayer together.

Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For March 21, 2021 sermon:

***Empowered (Book of Acts): "Flawed humans and a sovereign God"***

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

- What was the "issue" in biggest fight you ever had? Was it ultimately resolved?  
How has forgiveness (or unforgiveness) impacted your life?  
If you were in jail or prison, how likely is it that you would hold a "hymn sing"?

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

1. Sometimes the biggest "crashes" in our lives comes after the biggest victory. Why do you think this happens? Paul and Barnabas get into a fight and break a meaningful friendship after winning a huge victory for Gentile followers of Jesus. How does the Bible say we should handle our relationships in the Body of Christ?

1 Peter 4:7-10    1 Corinthians 13:4-6    Romans 12:9-18

2. "A good reputation goes a long way." When Paul arrived in Lystra, he learned of a young man named Timothy. Timothy had a godly mother and grandmother (Jews) and a Gentile father we don't really know anything about, but many people in the region where he lived spoke very highly of him to Paul and he was invited to be a part of Paul's team. How can we build the right kind of reputation?

Matthew 5:14-16    Proverbs 22:1    Matthew 5:33-37    1 Timothy 3:2-7

3. Paul and Silas received very inhumane treatment as a result of the charges presented against them by the "owner" of the demon possessed girl. If you read through Acts, it should make an impact on you that real persecution never seems to really rattle Paul (and I'm sure it physically hurt him as much as anyone. He gets up and returns to the city that just stoned him. He sings in prison, and so much more! Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-27 and reflect upon Paul's suffering in comparison to the things we often complain about.

What should our attitude be toward the slights and obstacles we face?

2 Timothy 3:10-12    John 15:18-21    Matthew 5:9-12    1 Peter 4:12-19

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

The Bible does not say that our emotions are a bad thing...but it warns us that they can lead us to do bad things! Anger, frustration, fear and self-doubt should remind us that we are NOT in control of our lives...even though we often think and act as if we are. And when we fail to respond as we should, it can drive a wedge between us and God (a wedge that we put there). Is there a limitation, a frailty, a tendency that you need to turn over to God as an act of worship and obedience (because you are flawed and He is sovereign)? Do that as you close in prayer together.

Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For March 21, 2021 sermon:

***Empowered (Book of Acts): "Flawed humans and a sovereign God"***

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

- What was the "issue" in biggest fight you ever had? Was it ultimately resolved?  
How has forgiveness (or unforgiveness) impacted your life?  
If you were in jail or prison, how likely is it that you would hold a "hymn sing"?

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

1. Sometimes the biggest "crashes" in our lives comes after the biggest victory. Why do you think this happens? Paul and Barnabas get into a fight and break a meaningful friendship after winning a huge victory for Gentile followers of Jesus. How does the Bible say we should handle our relationships in the Body of Christ?

1 Peter 4:7-10    1 Corinthians 13:4-6    Romans 12:9-18

2. "A good reputation goes a long way." When Paul arrived in Lystra, he learned of a young man named Timothy. Timothy had a godly mother and grandmother (Jews) and a Gentile father we don't really know anything about, but many people in the region where he lived spoke very highly of him to Paul and he was invited to be a part of Paul's team. How can we build the right kind of reputation?

Matthew 5:14-16    Proverbs 22:1    Matthew 5:33-37    1 Timothy 3:2-7

3. Paul and Silas received very inhumane treatment as a result of the charges presented against them by the "owner" of the demon possessed girl. If you read through Acts, it should make an impact on you that real persecution never seems to really rattle Paul (and I'm sure it physically hurt him as much as anyone. He gets up and returns to the city that just stoned him. He sings in prison, and so much more! Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-27 and reflect upon Paul's suffering in comparison to the things we often complain about.

What should our attitude be toward the slights and obstacles we face?

2 Timothy 3:10-12    John 15:18-21    Matthew 5:9-12    1 Peter 4:12-19

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

The Bible does not say that our emotions are a bad thing...but it warns us that they can lead us to do bad things! Anger, frustration, fear and self-doubt should remind us that we are NOT in control of our lives...even though we often think and act as if we are. And when we fail to respond as we should, it can drive a wedge between us and God (a wedge that we put there). Is there a limitation, a frailty, a tendency that you need to turn over to God as an act of worship and obedience (because you are flawed and He is sovereign)? Do that as you close in prayer together.

Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For March 21, 2021 sermon:

***Empowered (Book of Acts): "Flawed humans and a sovereign God"***

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

- What was the "issue" in biggest fight you ever had? Was it ultimately resolved?  
How has forgiveness (or unforgiveness) impacted your life?  
If you were in jail or prison, how likely is it that you would hold a "hymn sing"?

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

1. Sometimes the biggest "crashes" in our lives comes after the biggest victory. Why do you think this happens? Paul and Barnabas get into a fight and break a meaningful friendship after winning a huge victory for Gentile followers of Jesus. How does the Bible say we should handle our relationships in the Body of Christ?

1 Peter 4:7-10    1 Corinthians 13:4-6    Romans 12:9-18

2. "A good reputation goes a long way." When Paul arrived in Lystra, he learned of a young man named Timothy. Timothy had a godly mother and grandmother (Jews) and a Gentile father we don't really know anything about, but many people in the region where he lived spoke very highly of him to Paul and he was invited to be a part of Paul's team. How can we build the right kind of reputation?

Matthew 5:14-16    Proverbs 22:1    Matthew 5:33-37    1 Timothy 3:2-7

3. Paul and Silas received very inhumane treatment as a result of the charges presented against them by the "owner" of the demon possessed girl. If you read through Acts, it should make an impact on you that real persecution never seems to really rattle Paul (and I'm sure it physically hurt him as much as anyone. He gets up and returns to the city that just stoned him. He sings in prison, and so much more! Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-27 and reflect upon Paul's suffering in comparison to the things we often complain about.

What should our attitude be toward the slights and obstacles we face?

2 Timothy 3:10-12    John 15:18-21    Matthew 5:9-12    1 Peter 4:12-19

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

The Bible does not say that our emotions are a bad thing...but it warns us that they can lead us to do bad things! Anger, frustration, fear and self-doubt should remind us that we are NOT in control of our lives...even though we often think and act as if we are. And when we fail to respond as we should, it can drive a wedge between us and God (a wedge that we put there). Is there a limitation, a frailty, a tendency that you need to turn over to God as an act of worship and obedience (because you are flawed and He is sovereign)? Do that as you close in prayer together.