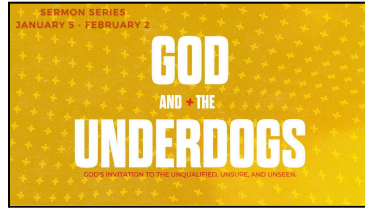


Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



January 26, 2025

Lydia - #3 in the series: God and the Underdogs - *God's Invitation to the Unqualified, Unsure, and Unseen*

Text Referenced (NIV): Acts 16: 11-15, 40; Philippians 1:3-6, John 4

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Think about the ways, throughout human history, people have been discriminated against and denied fundamental rights or access to opportunities based on their gender, race, or economic status.
 - Which examples seem especially grievous to you? Why?
 - How do these practices create a marginalized or “underdog” status for victims in the short and long term?
3. **Read Acts 16:11-13.**

Paul, on a second missionary journey and accompanied by Luke, had traveled to Phillippi, a Roman colony in what is now Greece.

 - What can we infer about the status of the practicing Jewish community in Phillippi from these verses?
 - What does it suggest that those gathered in the “place of prayer” were women?
4. **Read Acts 16:14-17, 40.**
 - What details do we learn about Lydia that dispel an “underdog” status historically bestowed on women? Which are most impressive to you?
 - Why has the church generally been reluctant to include women in participation and leadership roles?
5. **Read Philippians 1:3-6.**
 - What similarities do you see between Lydia’s story and the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well In **John 4**?
 - What more might we do at Hope to create opportunities to worship, belong, and serve for all people?
5. How can we pray for you?