

- **Culture shock: What is the most different culture you've ever experienced, from your own?**

- **When was the last time your plans suddenly changed?**

The hope is that this question is more lighthearted than serious. There will be a time further into the discussion to share more difficult changes.

As the Apostle Paul and others were spreading the good news of Jesus, they were eager to continue their missionary journey into Asia to reach the people there. Yet, they are unexpectedly unable to enter the region and instead redirected to Macedonia.

Have someone volunteer to read Acts 16:6-10

- **What was blocking the missionaries from entering Asia? How did they handle the change of plans?**

While it may be hard to understand exactly how they were blocked, it is clear that it was God's plan for them to head to Macedonia. Even though it is a sudden, unexpected change, they immediately jump into their new plan. They knew what their ultimate purpose was. Even as their intended location changed, they still knew what their purpose was.

- **Have you ever had your heart set on something, only to have it changed? What was it like navigating that disappointment or change?**

Here is an opportunity for your group to share more personal disappointments or changes they have had to endure/navigate. It might be helpful to ask if there is a difference between how they felt in the moment, and how they view that moment now. Sometimes time and perspective help us to see how God works through difficult moments or changes in plans.

As the missionary team continues on their journey, we see that their new plan into Macedonia bears much fruit. As they travel to different areas, they use the culture/understandings of the people to share the unchanging message of Jesus. One of the most significant examples of this is Paul's message to those at a place called Areopagus, also known as Mars Hill.

Have someone volunteer to read Acts 17:22-28

- **How does the Apostle Paul use the culture of the people to share Jesus with those at Mars Hill? What does this teach us about sharing the Gospel with people of different cultures and/or different beliefs?**

The Apostle Paul uses the religious symbols, the writings of their philosophers, and the words of their poets to show them that they are all searching for meaning and their creator. He reveals to them that Jesus is who they have been waiting on. This example should remind us that it can be powerful to use the culture/environment around us to share the timeless/unchanging message of Jesus.

- **What would it look like to reach the people in your everyday settings with the message of Jesus, using what they valued, cared about, and found important?**

This could look like listening to and being aware of what the people around you talk about, what they care about, what they listen to, etc. **There is some discussion of some practical examples of this on our leader podcast.**

As we prepare as a church to celebrate our 21st birthday, we have the opportunity to exercise generosity through our Beyond campaign. This campaign is a great reminder to continue to be outwardly focused as a church, and a reminder of how God uses the generosity of people to further His work in other places. It is reminiscent of how the Apostle Paul was supported in many of his missionary journeys by churches who were far from the areas he was reaching.

Have someone volunteer to read Philippians 4:14-17

- **How did the Philippians church partner with the Apostle Paul in his ministry? What would lead the Philippians to sacrifice for Paul's ongoing mission, after their church had already been established?**

They gave financial support to Paul so that he could continue his missionary journey and reach more people. Even though there is no direct benefit for the Philippians to continue funding his mission, they are sacrificing so that others may hear the good news about Jesus. They choose to be a sending/generous church. We want our church to be the same.

- **While financial gifts are important in our mission of reaching Seattle, what are some other ways that you can partner with the Pointe church?**

There are some upcoming trips in the summer to visit Seattle and The Pointe. Some are construction, some are to help build relationships, there are also so ideas for people to take their vacations in Seattle and/or visit for the launch in September. You can also pray regularly for the work God is doing at The Pointe and in Seattle. **There are a number of additional ideas shared on the leader podcast.**

End your group time with some guided prayer for The Pointe church.

Here are the things we would like you to pray for:

- **The People in the Federal Way** (location of church) community who don't know Jesus.
- **The Searles and their team.** That God would grow their relationships and opportunities to invite people to Jesus and their church.
- **The Beyond campaign.** That our church would be moved to generosity and that our gifts would be effective for Jesus and His kingdom.