

*This Wouldn't Be Happening If I Were a Better Christian*  
John 16.33; Acts 16.1-24  
April 14, 2013  
Message Notes



A. Dumb Thing #2 is a lie!

*The devil is the father of lies and the accuser.*

John 8.44, Revelation 12.10, Genesis 3

B. Our Second *Not* Dumb Thing:

You can be a fully devoted follower of Christ and still experience bad things.

John 16.33, John 15.18-19

*We experience trouble because we live in a sinful and broken world.*

Romans 8.22

*Sometimes, troubles will come because of your faith.*

Acts 16.1-24; 2 Corinthians 11.23-28

C. Motivation in response to sin: Guilt or Conviction?

John 16.8

*Guilt is not from God.*

D. The Gospel of Jesus is a Gospel of Grace.

Matthew 11.28-30

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John 16.33; Acts 16.1-24  
Week of April 14, 2013  
Growth Group Notes



1. In your own words, restate the "if I were a better Christian" lie. Why do you think it's both so common and so powerful?
2. Read Job 1.6-11, Genesis 3.1-7, Revelation 12.10-11. What does it say about the nature and work of the devil and how we overcome him?
3. We experience trouble and suffering because we live in a fallen world where sin reigns in the hearts of men. Jesus also made it clear in John 16.33 that we will have trouble in this world. Read Matthew 5.10-12, 10.22, John 15.18-19 and list some reasons for expecting trouble.
4. Define in your words guilt and then conviction. See how many differences you can list between the two. How can you learn to discern the difference between these two in your own life?
5. (Check NIV11 translation for the following verses) Read John 16.7-11 and 14.15-18. What can we learn about the Holy Spirit's work in our lives from these verses? What characteristics of his voice and his teachings do these Scriptures show us? According to 1 John 2.1, what happens when we sin?
6. God accepts our fallenness, we can too. We can take our fallenness to God. In fact, Jesus desires to take your burden and invites you to find rest in Him. Read Matthew 11.28-30 again out loud. What, if any, burden of guilt and shame do you need to release? Where is it from? Are you ready and willing now to let it go and take on Jesus' light yoke?
7. Knowing that guilt is not from God and that He extends grace, how will you live differently? How could you also help others be freed from their guilt and shame?