

Small Group Study

Our Vision

To know God and enjoy Him forever.

Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people



Discussion

Power with Purpose: Go West Young Man

Introduction

In Acts 16 we see that Paul is on the move. But it's not to get the scenic tour. He's traveling so that he can spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The events of this chapter and the next are commonly referred to as 'Paul's 2nd missionary journey'. The first trip was Acts 13-14. Read Acts 16:1-34 (below) – but as you do, trace the route that Paul took on the map on the next page so that you can get a sense of the places where he was going.

Scripture

Have volunteers read the following scripture:

Acts 16:1-34 (NLT)

1 Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek. 2 Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium, 3 so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey. In deference to the Jews of the area, he arranged for Timothy to be circumcised before they left, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek. 4 Then they went from town to town, instructing the believers to follow the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. 5 So the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day.

6 Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. 7 Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. 8 So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas.

9 That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" 10 So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

11 We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day we landed at Neapolis. 12 From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days.

13 On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. 14 One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive pur-

Ice Breaker

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

- 1.** What is one blessing in your life that you didn't see coming?
- 2.** Do you like things predictable in your life or do you thrive on the unexpected? Do you think you are more safe or adventurous?
- 3.** What's the farthest place you've ever travelled and what did you do there?



ple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. 15 She was baptized along with other members of her household, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed.

16 One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a demon-possessed slave girl. She was a fortune-teller who earned a lot of money for her masters. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved."

18 This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her.

19 Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. 20 "The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted to the city officials. 21 "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice." 22 A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. 23 They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. 24 So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. 26 Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! 27 The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. 28 But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

29 The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." 32 And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. 33 Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. 34 He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

Questions

1. Look at Acts 16:6-10 again. Does it surprise you that Paul didn't know what God wanted? Is that encouraging? How do you stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit? Have there been times when God gave you a redirection?
2. Look at Acts 16:11-15 again, then discuss the following topics found in the passage.
 - what opportunities do you have to share your faith?
 - what are some reasons to go to church every week?
 - have you been baptized?
 - any family members to reach out to?
3. Look at Acts 16:15. It is important for us to spend time in the right places. Paul's time with Lydia's family wasn't something he was initially excited about. What are some things you need to spend less time doing? What would be good to spend more time on?
4. Look over Acts 16:25-30 again. In verse 30, we see the jailer crying out to Paul and Silas "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" List some of the aspects of Paul's and Silas' behavior in this situation that might have brought the jailer to the point of asking this life changing question.
5. Give an example of a situation where your life could look as compelling as Paul and Silas, so that your life could bring others to ask you "what must I do to be saved?"
6. After a few rest breaks, Paul and his friends arrive at Philippi, a major city in Macedonia. In Philippi we're told about three people and their conversion/transformation. Fill in the below table about these three people:

Name	Their situation/job	How they come to hear about Jesus

And for each person, how do you see that it's God at work, not just Paul who is speaking a message?

God bless,

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