

“Strengthening the Church”

April 2, 2026

Bible Passage: Acts 16:1-5

Big idea: Churches need to be strengthened as they face various problems. Paul set out to strengthen the churches. How can we do that today?

Fighter Memory Verse

April

Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

I. _____ for other churches (15:36,41; 16:1-5).

- A. Paul was concerned about other churches (15:36).
- B. Paul was concerned enough that he visited the churches (15:36,41; 16:4).
- C. Paul had three reasons to visit the churches.
 - 1. _____ on them (15:36).
 - 2. _____ the Jerusalem decision (16:4).
 - 3. _____ them (15:41; 16:5).
- D. Churches today need to care for each other.
- E. How can we care for each other?

II. _____ laborers (16:1-3).

- A. Timothy was likely one of Paul's converts, directly or indirectly.
- B. Timothy was likely a resident or native of Lystra, not Derbe (16:1).
- C. Paul visited Lystra in his first missionary journey, and Timothy may have heard Paul speak (14:8-23).
- D. Timothy had a good reputation in Lystra and Iconium (16:2).
- E. Timothy's father was an unbeliever, but his mother was a believer.
- F. Paul was _____ for good men to accompany him.
- G. Timothy did not initiate the relationship; _____ did (16:3).
- H. Paul circumcised Timothy to _____ the Jews.
- I. Paul continued his mission trip with one more _____ (16:4).
- J. The church must intentionally develop leaders today. Four steps:
 - 1. Develop them spiritually.
 - 2. Sharpen their talents and _____.

3. Nurture their God-given desires for ministry.

4. _____ them for ministry.

III. _____ the churches (16:5).

- A. Paul corrected the faulty doctrine and the churches grew.
- B. What factors will help us maintain evangelism?
- C. The goal of a church is sound doctrine *and* _____.
- D. We must continue _____ churches.
- E. What factors will help us plant new churches?

Conclusion

- A. Review
- B. Response

Pray first†



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily for Jesus. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

This lesson is a follow up to the sermon. Please take the time this week to work through it in your community group or around your own kitchen table.

- 1. How is our relationship with other Bible-believing churches?
- 2. What potential problems does a local church face?
- 3. How are you helping to protect your faith family?
- 4. How is our development of lay leaders and full-time laborers?
- 5. Are we growing and helping to multiply churches in areas of MN / USA?