

Discussion Questions
June 14, 2026 | Acts 16:6-10
When God Has a Different Plan

UPWARDS – Growing in Our Relationship with God

1. Paul and his companions were prevented by the Holy Spirit from going to Asia or Bithynia (vv. 6-7). Even without understanding God's reasons, they continued to move forward in faith. How does this challenge and encourage us when we encounter closed doors in our own lives?
2. How does Proverbs 16:9 help us understand that while we make our plans, it is the Lord who directs our steps? How can this truth encourage us to trust God when our plans fall through, knowing that He may be redirecting us for our growth and His purposes?
3. Paul's desire to revisit believers and strengthen the churches was a good plan, yet the Holy Spirit prevented him from carrying it out (vv. 6-7). How does the truth that God is a good Father help you trust Him when your own good plans and goals are met with closed doors?

INWARDS – Growing in Fellowship with One Another

4. When their plans were redirected, Paul and his companions continued forward in faith until God made His will clear (v. 8). How can we cultivate patience and trust when God closes one door but has not yet opened another?
5. Since we cannot fully understand the work of God (Ecclesiastes 11:5-6), how can shifting our prayer from “Why is this happening?” to “Lord, I am waiting on You” deepen our trust in Him and strengthen our relationship with Him during seasons of uncertainty and silence?
6. How does Isaiah 55:8-9 help us respond in faith when God redirects or closes the door on a plan we believed was good?

OUTWARDS – Reaching Those Around Us

7. Paul's good plan to minister in Asia was blocked (v. 6), yet God used that redirection to bring the gospel to Europe (Macedonia). How has a detour or unexpected change in your own life eventually led to an outcome that was more significant or fruitful than your original plan?
8. The man from Macedonia begged, “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (v. 9). How does being flexible when our “good plans” are blocked allow us to be reoriented by God toward opportunities we might have missed if we were too focused on our own “map”?
9. How does knowing that no one can open a door that God closes, and no one can close a door that God opens (Revelation 3:7-8), motivate you to trust God and follow His ways?