

# Living in the Promises of Jesus

## Acts 16

### Lesson 12

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 16

1. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below a group of key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way

**Key Words:** God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, all references to Paul and those with him, baptized, and believe(d)/saved/salvation/gospel

TIMOTHY JOINS PAUL AND SILAS: Read Acts 16:1-5

1. Who did Paul and Silas meet when they came to Derbe and Lystra?
  - a. Using Acts 16:1-2, share three things revealed about Timothy.
    - 1)
    - 2)
    - 3)
  
  - b. Later in his letters, Paul referred to Timothy as his son in the faith. Recalling that Paul's first missionary journey included the city of Lystra, Timothy could have become a believer at that time. Acts 16:3 tells us that Paul wanted to have him go on with him. What did Paul do to Timothy?
    - 1.) What reason for this are we given in this verse?

2. The decision of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) was that circumcision was not necessary for salvation. What did Paul write in Galatians 5:6?
  - a. Timothy was half-Jewish. Although circumcision does nothing in regards to salvation, what might have been the benefit of circumcising Timothy?
  - b. Using 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, explain Paul's philosophy as it might relate to having Timothy circumcised.
  
3. What was the result of Paul's second visit to Derbe and Lystra? verse 5
  - a. Teaching focused on strengthening our faith is crucial. Give just one example of how your faith has been strengthened through the teaching of God's word.

THE MACEDONIAN CALL: Read Acts 16:6-10

1. Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, what happened?
  - a. After they had come to Mysia, what happened?
  
  - b. Paul was being guided by "*hindrances*." What does this say to you about the importance of viewing a "closed door" as something orchestrated by the Lord for your good?

Optional: Share a personal example of when God closed a door in your life and redirected you

2. We are not told the means by which the Holy Spirit hindered them. What are some different ways that the Holy Spirit could have hindered Paul and Silas?
  - a. What are some ways the Holy Spirit has spoken to or guided you?
  - b. What criteria do you use to help you know if it is the Holy Spirit speaking to you or not?
  - c. Possibly, the Holy Spirit spoke through someone to Paul. What are some of your thoughts when you consider someone giving you a message from the Lord that is contrary to what you think you want to hear?
3. When they were in Troas, a vision appeared to Paul in the night. What was the vision?
4. Acts 16:10 contains two important words. The first is *immediately*. What does this say to you about Paul and those with him?
  - a. The second important word is a little two letter word that follows the word *immediately*. What is the word?
5. In the vision, the man from Macedonia pleaded with Paul saying, "*Come over Macedonia and help us.*" What help did Paul conclude they needed?
  - a. Why is the gospel the answer to man's cry for help?

## MINISTRY IN PHILIPPI: Acts 16:11-15

1. It was the custom of Paul and Silas to go to the local synagogues to share the gospel. Acts 16:13 reveals that they went to the riverside where prayer was customarily made. With the absence of a synagogue it seems there were but a few Jews in Philippi. Yet in this small gathering God brought a certain woman to the riverside. What does verse 14 tell us about her?
  
2. Although Lydia was a woman who worshiped God, what did the Lord open her heart to heed?
  - a. What is the difference between hearing and heeding?
  
  - b. What did God do to Lydia's heart so that she could heed the things spoken by Paul?
    - 1.) What are some things that you do to open your heart when the word of God is being spoken?

## PAUL AND SILAS IMPRISONED: Read Acts 16:16-24

1. Acts 16:16-18 recounts the story of a slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination. What did she say about Paul and those with him?
  
2. Neither Jesus nor Paul wanted to be promoted by demons. What does Acts 16:18 say that Paul said to the (demon) spirit?
  
3. This demon-possessed woman had brought much profit to her masters through fortune telling. When she was freed of the spirit, their hope of profit was gone. What accusations did her masters bring before the city magistrates? verses 19-21

- a. What did the magistrates do in response to the accusations? verses 22-24

THE PHILIPPPIAN JAILER SAVED: Read Acts 16:25-34

1. What might we expect someone to do who has been unjustly imprisoned?

- a. But....what were Paul and Silas doing?

- 1.) They were not singing or praying so that no one could hear them. How do we know this?

2. Suddenly, what happened? verses 26-27

3. The keeper of the prison feared his execution and thus, was about to kill himself. Paul reassured him that he and Silas and the rest of the prisoners were still in their prison cells. If Paul would have chosen to escape, what question of the keeper of the prison would not have been asked?

- a. *What must I do to be saved?* What is ALWAYS the answer to that question? verse 31

- 1.) Why? (Record the words of Acts 4:12)

4. The words *you and your household* indicate that the same answer is available for all who ask the question. What does Acts 16:33,34 disclose about those in the prison keeper's household?

PAUL REFUSES TO DEPART SECRETLY: Read Acts 16:35-40

1. In previous times, God sent an angel to set Peter free from prison and told Peter to escape. The next morning, Paul and Silas are still in prison. The magistrates sent instructions to let them go and to depart and go in peace. Paul refused to leave. What did he say to them? verse 37
  - a. What words did Paul use to describe himself and Silas?
  
2. According to verse 38, why were the magistrates afraid?
  - a. After pleading with Paul and Silas, they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia. Then, what did Paul and Silas do?

REVIEW: Read Acts 16

1. What can we learn from:
  - Paul's choice to circumcise Timothy?
  
  - Paul's response to the hindering of the Holy Spirit?
  
  - Lydia's open heart (and home)?
  
  - Paul and Silas' example when beaten and imprisoned?
  
  - Paul and Silas' example after they were released from prison?
  
2. What was your favorite part in this lesson? Why?