

29 January 2023 MACC
Digging Deeper Acts 16:11-15

Day 1

Pray to God, confess your sins, and ask for His help. As you dig deeper into His word this week, consider using a journal to write down the ideas and questions He has for you as you study. Read Acts 16:11-15. Paul and his crew were traveling into Macedonia, a region made up of Roman colonies, the first of which was Philippi. There weren't very many Jews in Philippi, mostly Greeks and Romans. During this trip, Paul helps to settle a church there. We know this because of the letter that he later writes to them. Check out the introduction Paul writes to those few Jews in Philippi, in the opening paragraphs of his letter to the "Philippians", chapter 1. What must his first few days have been like, as he is entering the town for the first time, that led up to him writing "Philippians" later?

Day 2

Pray to God about what he wants you to learn as you study in His word digging deeper into the verses from Sunday's message. Again, read Acts 16:11-15. Normally when Paul enters a new town he seeks the temple or synagogue on the Sabbath, to meet, greet and teach the Jews in that town. Why do you think in Philippi he has to find them by the water? And why is it only women that he finds there?

Day 3

Pray to God as you learn from His word today. Is there someone you need to reconnect with whom you haven't spoken to in a long time? Send them a text, give them a call, and ask them how they are doing and what you can do for them. Read Acts 16:11-15. Paul takes the time to include specific information about a woman that he meets there. She must have made a strong positive impression on him, Timothy, and others with him. What do we know about her? What do you think would make a woman in Paul's day stand out to him in such a way that he would take the time to tell this story about her?

Day 4

Find a quiet place to settle your body, mind, and spirit. Pray for God's help during this digging deeper study time. Write down what the Holy Spirit brings to your heart and mind. Write everything down into your journal for reflection and study. Read Acts 16:11-15. What happens next with Lydia? How coincidental that they are teaching and learning right there by a riverbank. What God-inspired coincidences have you experienced in your life, where you found yourself at precisely the right place at the right time with the right people, for something that God had planned all along?

Day 5

Pray for others in your life. Ask God how is He nudging you to come alongside them with kindness, compassion, and joy. Read Acts 16:11-15. What does Lydia do next for Paul and his companions? What kind of means and resources must she have had to host and entertain a small group of men for the days that they remained in Philippi?