

# ACTS

LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 15:36-16:10

February 11, 2024

## BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Do you struggle with making sure you have control of your life's circumstances?

- How do you feel when things do not go your way?

## BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

**Last week**, we saw the Jerusalem Council meet, discuss and reach a resolution which allowed Gentile converts into the Church. They agreed that Christ alone saves, and that circumcision is not a requirement [*Pastor Jacob referred to this as **Jesus + Nothing = Everything***]. Upon reaching this agreement, they send off Paul, Barnabas and the boys to deliver their message to the Gentile churches. This week, we finish off **Acts 15** and step into the first part of **Acts 16** - which includes Paul's second missionary journey. In our lesson, we will see that contention can exist, but the gospel message always moves forward under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Have someone in your group read **Acts 15:36-41**

## BUILD

Engage the Scripture

**Question 1:** How does the decision made in **Acts 15:1-35** about the Gentile churches, impact what is going on in **Acts 15:36** and beyond?

**Question 2:** What is the disagreement all about between Paul and Barnabas in **Acts 15:36**? [**Does Acts 13:2-5 & 13 help?**]

- Why was Barnabas determined to take John Mark with them? [**Does Colossians 4:10 help?**]
- Does it surprise you that these two apostles would have a disagreement like this?
  - What does this reveal about human relationships? [**Disagreements are inevitable, and conflict is a reality of life.**]

**Question 3:** Disagreements are inevitable, and conflict is a reality of life. In those situations, how can we keep our eyes on Christ and remain focused on the mission?

- **Colossians 4:10** and **2 Timothy 4:11** remind us that Paul and Mark maintained a mutual commitment to the Gospel. What can we learn from their example?

**Question 4:** How is God's will ultimately accomplished through the actions of Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark?

## BECOME

Apply the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **Acts 16:1-5**

**Question 5:** Remember last week - the Jerusalem council basically said, **Jesus + Nothing = Everything**. So, what surprising thing does Paul command in **Acts 16:3**? [That Timothy be circumcised]

- And, how does this compare to **Galatians 2:1-5**, when Paul resists circumcising Titus? [Timothy was both Jewish & Greek | mom was Jewish and dad was Greek/ Titus was a Gentile - pure Greek]
- So, what's the lesson here? [Paul didn't circumcise Timothy for his salvation or his right standing with God. He circumcised him so that Timothy's status as a non-circumcised man from a Jewish mother would not prevent their missionary work among the Jews. **Paul did things for the sake of love that he would not do for the sake of trying to please God through legalism. In Galatians, 2:1-5, Paul insisted that Titus, a Gentile, did not have to be circumcised.**]

**Question 6:** Timothy was uniquely positioned to participate in the mission of taking the Gospel to the Gentiles.

- Has God uniquely positioned and gifted you to take the Gospel to your areas of influence? How?

Have someone in your group read **Acts 16:6-10**

**Question 7:** How did Paul know the Holy Spirit didn't want them going to Asia?

- Have you ever sensed that the Holy Spirit stopped or redirected an activity of yours?
- How can we be alert to ways in which the Spirit directs us today?

**Question 8:** In **Acts 16:10** we get a hint about a new missionary team member - we see a new pronoun. What's the pronoun and what does this pronoun reveal about the new team member?

## BEGIN

Response and Prayer

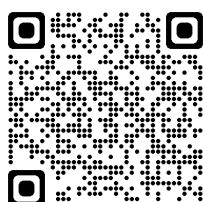
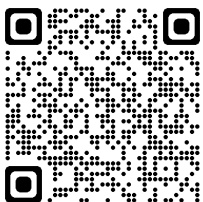
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Blue Letter Bible:** [Acts 15](#) & [Acts 16](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin:** [Acts 15](#) & [Acts 16](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

