

# ACTS

## LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 16:11-40

February 18, 2024

### BELONG

Get to Know One Another

What was the most ridiculous thing you got in trouble for in school?

### BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

**Last week**, we read how Paul and Barnabas separated. In their separation, they took the unified message of the gospel separate ways. What was 1 missionary journey, became 2 missionary journeys. Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, begins his second missionary journey - trusting God's sovereignty as he travels. By trusting God's sovereignty, Paul has learned a truth of Scripture. The truth is this - If we trust in the Lord with all of heart - we do not lean on our own understanding AND in all of our ways acknowledge Him...then He will ALWAYS direct our path. We see this in Paul's obedience. In fact, last week, we looked at the *Macedonian call* where Paul responds to this vision that, "You need to go. The people of Macedonia are crying out. 'Come over here and help us.'" And we see that Paul went. Today, we'll see that he visits a river...and prison...

Have someone in your group read **Acts 16:11-15**

### BUILD

Engage the Scripture

**Question 1:** Did you notice that the Spirit's direction led Paul to go to a specific place [Philippi] - and then we see that Paul was obedient to go.

- Do you think the Spirit continues to guide us in this way?
- If so, are we like Paul and obey OR do we find ourselves looking for ways to avoid God's call?

**Question 2:** Specifically, where does Paul's team go to find where the Jews and God-fearing people gathered? [**Acts 16:13**]

- What part of the group do the apostles interact with?
  - Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
- Why should the conversion of Lydia encourage us? What was special about her?

**Question 3:** In **verse 14**, what does Luke mean when he writes, "The Lord opened her heart"?

- Look up the following verses for help in answering this question:
  - **Jeremiah 24:7; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 4:6; and, Ephesians 1:18**
- How does Lydian respond after the Lord "opened her heart"? [**Acts 16:15**]

Have someone in your group read **Acts 16:16-24**

**Question 4:** How would you describe the slave girl introduced in [Acts 16:16](#)?

- What was her message in [verse 17](#)?
  - Was it true?

**Question 5:** Why do you think Paul stopped the demon possessed girl from speaking, even though what she said was true?

- Look up the following verses for help in answering this question:
  - [Matthew 7:15-16](#); and [2 Corinthians 11:13-14](#)

**Question 6:** How do the slave girl's owners respond in [Acts 16:19](#)?

- In the world's eyes, what was this girl's value? [*to exploit and make other men money*]
- List the ways that Paul and Silas are punished? [[Acts 16:22-24](#)]
  - Do these punishments seem appropriate or extreme?

Have someone in your group read [Acts 16:25-34](#)

**Question 7:** What were Paul and Silas doing while in jail? [[Acts 16:25](#)]

- What would you be doing if you had just gone through what Paul & Silas went through?
  - Would it affect your faith?
  - Would you question your "calling"?
- Have someone read [John 16:33](#). How does this verse affect your understanding of Paul & Silas trials?

**Question 8:** What does the Lord use to "open the heart" of the Philippian jailer?

- What was the evidence of his conversion?

**Question 9:** In our text today, both Lydia and the Philippian jailer have their hearts opened and respond to the Lord's saving mercy. The evidence is they reveal hospitable behavior.

- How does Christian hospitality differ from other forms of hospitality?

## BEGIN

Response and Prayer

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

- 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 16](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



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

