

Acts

vol. 4

the church
on mission

Accompanies the 11/20/22 sermon

Acts 16-1:15

Through the Holy Spirit follower of Jesus are filled, sealed, and sanctified. He also works in us and around us to direct our lives. Today we will read of how God directed the work of Paul and Silas and their ministry and how the Holy Spirit is still active in our lives today.

This week we will see that: **When we are faithful to obediently follow the Spirit on mission, He will be faithful to make it clear where we are to go and what we are to do when we get there.**

GETTING STARTED

Was there a time in your life where you attempted to do something, but it seemed like the door kept closing? How about an unexpected door opening?

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **Acts 16:1-15**

- What is the context of this passage? Where is Paul Traveling? Why and with whom?
- What about this passage stands out to you?
- Why did Paul want Timothy to travel with him? Why was Timothy circumcised?
- What decision was made by the Apostles that Paul was sharing?
- Where do you see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

GETTING PRACTICAL

- 1) Timothy did not need to be circumcised yet he chose to because of his commitment to the mission. It seems like our commitment to sharing the gospel and living our lives faithfully takes sacrifice. Why do you think this is the case? Have you had to make any sorts of sacrifices for your faith?
- 2) How can politics, personal preferences, comfort, and past experiences hinder us from effectively sharing the gospel and making disciples? What are some areas that you might need to be more selfless to be more effective in your ministry?
- 3) In the scriptures we see the Holy Spirit very active in the ministry and life of Paul and his companions. How might this passage affect your understanding of doors closing in life? What does it tell you about the Holy Spirit's role in our ministry?
- 4) **Discerning Gods Will:** Sometimes it can be challenging to discern God's will for our life. Spend a few minutes reflecting on this week's message and Bible passage. How has it impacted your understanding of discerning God's direction? Discuss the following three points and how it might help you have better discernment.
 - a. Prayerful Invitation: Inviting God to direct your life.
 - b. Prayerful Conformation: Seek confirmation of what the Holy Spirit is directing you through prayer, others, and God's Word.
 - c. Prayerfully Obedience.