

4. Read Acts 16:6-10

a. Does God ever guide you by closing doors (16:6) or by direct leading (16:9)? If so, name an example or two. If not, how does He guide you, if at all?

b. What do you do when the Holy Spirit thwarts your plans?

c. How can you grow more responsive to God's guidance, in whatever forms He chooses to give it? Think of some specific steps you can take.

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Wisconsin Family Council

Pray for God's wisdom to continue to fight for Christian values for our state.

Sermon Notes

"God's Guidance"
Acts 15:36 – 16:10
March 3, 2019

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 03-03-19

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action. A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 48-51; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 207-208; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 133-137.

Getting Started:

1. How persistent are you in trying to get things to go your way?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read Acts 15:36-41.

- a. What was the source of disagreement between Paul and Barnabas? Why do you think their difference of opinion turned into such a deep division?

- b. When should you give up your rights, your position, or your point of view for the sake of peace with another person? When should you not?

3. Read Acts 16:1-5.

- a. Why did Paul return to churches he had already founded? What did he do there, and why were those things important (15:41; 16:4-5)?

- b. Why do you think trained leaders like Paul and Barnabas like to take inexperienced youths like Mark and Timothy into their teams? Consider 2 Timothy 2:2. Is there a principle here that you can apply?

Timothy was both Jew and Greek and, uncircumcised, would continually offend the Jews, with no advantage to the cause of Gentile liberty. So Paul circumcised him (16:3) so that he would be a much more effective missionary. Earlier, Paul had refused to circumcise another colleague, Titus, because Titus was a pure Gentile (Galatians 2:1-5). In that case, the rite would have meant that Titus had to become Jewish in order to be Christian. (R. Kent Hughes, Acts: The Church Afire, Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL, 1996, p. 205; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 134).

- c. In circumcising Timothy, Paul was accommodating Jewish culture in order to further the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). In refusing to circumcise Titus, Paul was refusing to accommodate Jewish culture because of a theological principle. Do you face any similar decisions to accommodate or not? If so what should you do?