

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 41 – Timothy Joins Paul and Silas - [Acts 16:1-5](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

16 Then he went on to Derbe, then to Lystra. A follower named Timothy lived there, whose Jewish mother was a follower of the Lord, but whose father was a Greek.

² The followers in both Lystra and Iconium spoke well of Timothy.

³ And Paul wanted to take him along with him. So he had him circumcised, because all the Jews living in those areas knew that his father was a Greek.

⁴ As they went from city to city, they delivered to each church a copy of the decisions the apostles and elders had arrived at in Jerusalem, which the people were to obey.

⁵ As a result, the churches were each strengthened in the faith, and they increased in number every day.

DISCUSSIONS QUESTIONS

Lesson 41 – Timothy Joins Paul and Silas - [Acts 16:1-5](#)

630. Who visited Derbe and then Lystra? ([16:1](#))
631. Where was Timothy from? ([16:1](#))
632. What was Timothy's parentage? ([16:1](#))
633. What was Timothy's reputation? ([16:2](#))
634. What reputation did Timothy have among Christians? ([16:2](#))
635. Why did Paul want to take Timothy along on the journey? ([16:2-3](#))
636. What did Timothy have to do in order to minister with Paul? ([16:3](#))
637. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised? ([16:3](#))
638. How is it safe to assume that Timothy was being treated as a Jew rather than a Gentile? ([16:3-4](#))

639. What did Paul and his companions do as they traveled from town to town? ([16:4](#))
640. What was the effect of the missionaries' visit? ([16:5](#))

Lesson 42 - Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia - [Acts 16:6-10](#)

The Macedonian Call

⁶Then, because they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the message in the province of Asia* at that time, they traveled through Phrygia and Galatia, and then on to the region of Mysia.

Acts 16:6 – “The Province of Asia*” Which is now western Turkey.

⁷They tried to go into the province of Bithynia from there, but the Spirit wouldn't let them go there either.

⁸So they traveled through Mysia, and went down to the city of Troas.

⁹One night there, Paul saw a vision of a man from northern Greece* standing and pleading with him, “Come over into northern Greece and help us!”

Acts 16:9 – “Northern Greece*” i.e. Macedonia.

¹⁰Immediately after Paul saw that vision, we got ready to go to northern Greece. We were sure the Lord had called us to tell them the Great News.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 42 - Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia - [Acts 16:6-10](#)

641. Where did the journey westward from Iconium take Paul and his companions? ([16:6](#))
642. Who directed the missionaries away from Asia? ([16:6](#))
643. How were the travelers hindered from entering Bithynia? ([16:7](#))
644. How did God guide the missionaries in their travels? ([16:6-7](#))
645. After leaving Mysia, where did the travelers go next? ([16:8](#))
646. When did Paul experience the vision? ([16:9](#))
647. What did Paul see in his vision? ([16:9](#))

648. How did Paul and his companions interpret this vision? ([16:10](#))
649. What did the missionaries do after they understood what God wanted them to do? ([16:10](#))
650. When did Paul and his companions respond to God's instructions? ([16:10](#))
651. How did the narrator of the story participate in Paul's travels? ([16:10](#))

Lesson 43 - Lydia's Conversion in Philippi - [Acts 16:11-15](#)

Lydia's Conversion in Philippi

¹¹So we took passage on a boat at Troas, and sailed straight across to Samothrace. The next day we arrived at Neapolis.

¹²From there we went to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city in that part of northern Greece. We stayed there several days.

¹³On the Sabbath we went outside the city to the river, where it was customary to have a prayer meeting. There we sat down and talked to the women who had gathered.

¹⁴One woman who listened to us there was Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, who sold expensive purple cloth. She sincerely worshiped God. And the Lord so opened her heart to what Paul was saying that she responded.

¹⁵After she and her entire household were baptized, she begged us, "If you are convinced that I am truly faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my house." She insisted that we do so, and so we did.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 43 - Lydia's Conversion in Philippi - [Acts 16:11-15](#)

652. How did Paul and his companions travel from Troas to Philippi? ([16:11-12](#))
653. Where did the travelers stop on their way from Troas to Philippi? ([16:11-12](#))
654. How did Luke describe Philippi? ([16:12](#))
655. Where did Paul and his friends go to pray on the Sabbath? ([16:13](#))
656. Why was there no synagogue at Philippi? ([16:13](#))
657. Whom did the travelers find at the place of prayer? ([16:13](#))
658. Who was Lydia? ([16:14](#))

659. How did Lydia respond to Paul's words? ([16:14](#))

660. Who opened Lydia's heart? ([16:14](#))

661. After Lydia became a believer, what did she and her household do? ([16:15](#))

662. What did Lydia offer Paul and his group after her baptism? ([16:15](#))

Lesson 44 - Paul and Silas in Prison - [Acts 16:16-40](#)

Paul and Silas in Jail

¹⁶One day as we were on our way to prayer, a slave girl, possessed by an evil spirit claiming to predict the future, met us. Her fortune telling made her owners a good deal of money.

¹⁷She followed Paul and the rest of us, and kept shouting, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God. They are telling us how to be saved."

¹⁸She kept this up for many days. But finally Paul, becoming greatly annoyed, turned around and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ, come out of her!" And instantly* it left her.

Acts 16:18 – "Instantly*" Literally *that very hour*. This is an idiom Luke uses to mean *instantly*, as can be seen by comparing Acts 9:18 and 22:13.

¹⁹But when her owners realized that their means of making money through her was gone, they grabbed hold of Paul and Silas and dragged them into court.

²⁰When they came before the judges, they charged, "Here are some Jews who are continually causing trouble in our city.

²¹"They are teaching the people to do things that are unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice!"

²²Then the whole crowd there joined in the attack against them, and finally the judges themselves tore off the robes of Paul and Silas and ordered that they be beaten *with rods*.

²³After being badly beaten and having their backs covered with stripes, they were thrown in jail. The jailer was then ordered to make sure they were locked up securely.

²⁴Upon receiving such an order, the jailer threw them into the inner cell and chained their feet between heavy blocks of wood.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, while the other prisoners listened.

26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake that shook the jail to its very foundations. Immediately all the doors flew open, and the shackles on all the prisoners fell off.

27 When the jailer woke up and saw the jail doors open, he pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.

28 But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We’re all here!”

29 After calling for torches, the jailer ran in and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

30 After bringing them out of the jail he said, “O Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 They replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.* This is also true for everyone in your household.”

Acts 16:31 – “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.*” “Believe is the Greek word “pisteuo” and means to place confidence in, to trust. Jesus as *Lord* means ruler, one you must surrender yourself to. Jesus means *Savior*. You must believe that He died on the cross because of your sins, so that He might save you. *Christ*, or *Messiah* mean the same. Messiah is the Hebrew word, and Christ is the Greek form of the same word. The name Christ means *the anointed One*, the One to whom God the Father has given all power and authority, the King. According to verse 32, Paul and Silas no doubt explained all this and much more to the jailer and his family.

32 Then they told him and everyone in his home about the Lord.

33 That very hour, in the middle of the night, the jailer took them where he could wash their cuts and bruises. Then he and everyone in his home were immediately baptized.

34 After that, he brought them into his house and served them a meal. All the while he, and his entire household were rejoicing in what they now had come to believe about God.

35 When it was daylight, the authorities sent police to the jailer with the order, “Let those men go.”

36 So the jailer reported this to Paul, saying, “The authorities have sent word that I’m to release you. So you may leave now and go on your way in peace.”

37 “No, we’re not leaving!” Paul told the police. “Do they think they can condemn, publicly whip, and throw Roman citizens into jail without giving them a fair trial? And now they wish to have us leave jail secretly! Let them come themselves and talk to us about leaving.”

38 When the police reported this to the judges—that they were Roman citizens—they became alarmed.

39 So they came and released them and told them how extremely sorry they were. Then they asked them to please leave town.

⁴⁰But when they left the jail, they went to Lydia's house. There they met with the Lord's followers and encouraged and advised them. Then they left.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 44 - Paul and Silas in Prison - [Acts 16:16-40](#)

663. Where were Paul and his companions going when they met the slave girl? ([16:16](#))
664. What was distinctive about the slave girl that Paul and his companions met? ([16:16](#))
665. How did Luke describe the slave girl? ([16:16](#))
666. How was the girl exploited? ([16:16](#))
667. How did the demon-possessed girl damage Paul's ministry? ([16:17-18](#))
668. How did Paul gain victory over the slave girl's demonic condition? ([16:18](#))
669. Why were the owners of the slave girl angry with Paul and Silas? ([16:19](#))
670. What did the girl's owners do with Paul and Silas? Why? ([16:19-20](#))
671. What happened to Paul and Silas after several accusations were made against them? ([16:20-24](#))
672. What happened while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns? ([16:25-26](#))
673. Why did the jailer turn to God? ([16:27-30](#))
674. What were the results of the talk Paul and Silas had with the jailer? ([16:31-34](#))
675. Why did the magistrates change their minds about Paul and Silas? ([16:35-36](#))
676. Why did Paul respond the way he did to the officers? ([16:37](#))
677. What did Paul and Silas do after their release from prison? ([16:40](#))