

## Power to Witness in Word and Deed — Part 2

*The Book of Acts*

**Acts 16:1–15**

**Read Acts 16:1–15.**

1. Paul departs Syrian Antioch and travels through modern day Turkey and into Greece. Beginning with Acts 15:41 trace his travels through Acts 16:12 on the map provided in your folder.
2. On this trip Paul takes along Silas, a leader and prophet from Jerusalem (15:22, 32), and Timothy.
  - a. How does Luke introduce us to Timothy? (vv. 1–2)
  - b. What are some other things that the New Testament tells us about this young man, Timothy? (1 Tim. 1:1–2, 4:13–14; 2 Tim. 1:5, 3:14–15 OR skim through 1 & 2 Timothy for a broader picture.)
3. Following the decision of the Jerusalem council (15:28–29), what unexpected thing does Paul do? (v. 3a)
4. Compare what Paul says in Galatians 2:1–5 with what he does in Acts 16:3 with Timothy. What's at stake in these two circumstances?  
Galatians 2:4  
  
Acts 16:3
5. What principles motivate Paul to circumcise Timothy? (1 Cor. 9:19–23; Gal. 5:6)
6. In what ways have you found God leading you to be culturally sensitive as you share the gospel?
7. Why do you think the churches were "strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers" (v. 5) as a result of hearing the decision reached by the Jerusalem Council? (Consider 15:10, 19, 24, 31)

8. Read verses 6–12 with your map on hand for reference. Paul initially planned to visit the brothers in the towns where he'd already preached. How does God alter Paul's plan?  
vv. 6b, 7b
- v. 9
- v. 10b
9. Following God's directions, the missionaries pass by a vast population of unevangelized people and make a sea voyage of 150 miles to arrive in Neapolis. From there they travel inland to Philippi, a Roman colony which served as an outpost to protect Rome on the frontiers of the empire.<sup>1</sup>
- a. How does God gain a foothold in this pagan city on the frontier of the church? (v. 14b)
- b. What guarantees the success of the missionaries' work? (v. 14b; Col. 4:3–4)
10. In his life as a Pharisee, Paul would have "daily repeated such words as these, 'O God, I thank Thee that I am neither Gentile, nor slave, nor woman.'"<sup>2</sup> What evidence is there that the gospel has brought Paul into line with God's heart for women? (v. 13; Gal. 3:26–29)
11. What kind of woman was Lydia? (v. 14a; for an interesting twist, be sure to find her hometown on the map and compare that with verse 6b)
12. What impact did the gospel have on Lydia? (vv. 15, 40; Phil. 1:4–5, 4:10, 14–18)
13. Jot down some ways that God's direction of the missionaries and Lydia's conversion can encourage you as you consider sharing the good news with others.
14. How has the Spirit led you into various situations and relationships for the sake of the gospel?

Allow these examples to fill you with great expectations for what he will do in the future. Praise God for his creativity in building his kingdom and for using you to do it.

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<sup>1</sup> Morgan, G. Campbell. *The Acts of the Apostles*. (NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1924), p. 378-9.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p. 381.