

Lesson 49: Acts 16:1-5 Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

Background: Paul, Silas, and Timothy in Derbe and Lystra.

Acts 16:1-2 Who did Paul and Silas meet in Derbe and Lystra? _____

Acts 16:3 Why did Paul want Timothy to receive the mark of circumcision? _____

Acts 16:4-5 What did Paul, Silas, and Timothy tell all the gentile churches to strengthen their faith in Jesus? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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Acts 16:1-5 Question Answers

Acts 16:1-2 On his second missionary journey to show the gentiles that Jesus is God the Son, Paul returned to the cities of Derbe and Lystra. **In Lystra Paul and Silas met a believer in Jesus named Timothy.**

Acts 16:3 Timothy's mother was a Jew and his father was a Greek, a gentile. In 2 Timothy 3:15, we are told that Timothy had been raised as a Jew by his mother. Timothy should have received the mark of circumcision as a baby, to show that he was a Jew, one of God's chosen people, but it seems that because his father was a gentile, Timothy was not given the mark of circumcision as a baby.

Because Timothy was part Jewish, but had not received the mark of circumcision, **the Jews in that area would have thought that Timothy was disobeying God.** So, even though Timothy did not need to receive the mark of circumcision to be saved from his sins, by doing what God had said Jewish men should do, the Jews could not say that Timothy was disobeying God. This made it easier for Timothy, Silas, and Paul to tell the Jews about Jesus.

Acts 16:4-5 In Acts 15, we were told that there were people going around teaching that if a gentile wanted to become a follower of Jesus and be saved from their sins, they had to first become a Jew by following the laws of Moses and receiving the mark of circumcision. This caused the gentile believers in Jesus to doubt that Jesus had really saved them, because they were not yet Jews. Paul, Silas, and Timothy though, came to the gentile believers with a letter from the church in Jerusalem telling the gentiles that they did not have to receive the mark of circumcision in order to be saved from the punishment of their sins. Hearing **that trusting and following Jesus is all you need to do for Jesus to save you from sin** strengthened the faith of the gentile believers in Jesus.

Lesson 50: Acts 16:6-10 The Macedonian Call

Background: Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke traveling to Macedonia.

Acts 16:6-7 Whose stopped them from going into Bithynia? _____

Acts 16:8-9 What did the man of Macedonia say to Paul in his vision? _____

Acts 16:10 Why does the Book of the Acts of the Apostles suddenly change from using the word “they” to the word “we ”? _____

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Acts 16:6-10 Question Answers

Acts 16:6-7 After Paul, Silas, and Timothy had gone through the region of Phrygia and Galatia (in modern day Turkey) they were forbidden by God the Holy Spirit to teach the Gospel in Asia. When they arrived at Mysia (in the Asian part of modern day Turkey) they tried to go into the region of Bithynia to the North, but **they were stopped by the Spirit of Jesus.** God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit had a perfect plan for spreading the Gospel about Jesus to the whole world. God knows everything that has ever happened and will happen in the future, so He sent Paul and all the followers of Jesus exactly where they needed to go, exactly when they needed to be there.

Acts 16:8-9 Because the Spirit of Jesus had stopped them from going into Bithynia, the region Northeast of Mysia, they went West to Troas near the sea. During the night, Paul had a dream, a vision from God, of a man from Macedonia urging him to **“Come over to Macedonia and help us.”**

Acts 16:10 After determining that the dream he had had was a vision from God, Paul and his traveling companions began their journey into the region of Macedonia. Luke, the writer of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles switches from using the word “they” to “we,” **because Luke joins Paul during this part of the journey.** Luke was a medical doctor and after interviewing eye-witnesses of the life of Jesus and the beginning of the church, he wrote both the Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

Lesson 51: Acts 16:11-15 The Conversion of Lydia

Background: Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke in Philippi, a city of Macedonia.

Acts 16:11-13 Where did Paul and his traveling companions go in the city of Philippi? _____

Acts 16:14 Whose heart was opened by the Lord God so that they would listen to Paul's message about Jesus? _____

Acts 16:15 What happened to Lydia after she came to believe that Jesus died to forgive her for her sins? _____

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Acts 16:11-15 Question Answers

Acts 16:11-13 Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke continued their journey by setting sail across the Aegean Sea on a ship from Troas to the island of Samothrace (Sa-mo-thra-kay). Samothrace was the home to the Temple of the Greek Gods, a place where people would come to worship the fake Greek gods Demeter, Persephone, Hades and Hermes. They then sailed further across the Aegean Sea to the city of Neapolis, the first European city in which Paul and his Christian traveling companions set foot. From Neapolis, they made their way to Philippi. On the Sabbath, the day of the week that Jews were supposed to rest from their work, Paul went **outside the city gate to the riverside where women were praying** to the One True God.

Acts 16:14 Wherever Paul went, he shared the Gospel, the good news that Jesus is God the Son and that He died to take away the punishment for our sins. When Paul went to the riverside outside the city of Philippi, **God opened Lydia's heart so she could be saved from her sins** and become part of God's church family.

Lydia was a seller of purple cloth, the color of royalty. The purple dye she used would have come from boiling sea snails. Because this process was so hard to do, purple cloth was very rare, and only worn by the very rich. Lydia was probably herself a wealthy woman from selling purple cloth.

Acts 16:15 After God the Holy Spirit opened her heart and she came to trust and follow Jesus, God the Son, **Lydia was baptized.** By being publicly submerged in the water of the river and coming back up, Lydia was telling everyone that her old self had died and that she was a new woman in Christ Jesus. Just as Jesus' body was put in the tomb (going in the water) and then came back to life three days later (coming out of the water), baptism symbolizes how we are given new life when we trust and follow Jesus. Lydia was telling everyone that Jesus had taken away her sins and made her into a beloved child of God in the sight of God the Father. Out of her joy, she invited Paul and his companions to be guests in her home while they were in Philippi.

Lesson 52: Acts 16:16-24 Paul and Silas in Prison

Background: Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke in Philippi, a city of Macedonia.

Acts 16:16-17 Who followed Paul and his traveling companions for many days? _____

Acts 16:18 What did Paul do about the slave girl crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God...” _____

Acts 16:19-24 What did the slave girl’s owners do to Paul and Silas when they saw that the girl no longer had the spirit of divination? _____

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Acts 16:16-24 Question Answers

Acts 16:16-17 **A slave girl with a spirit of divination** began to follow Paul and his traveling companions as they were going through Philippi. This spirit of divination would tell the slave girl things that no one else could know, like what will happen in the future, so people would pay her owners to hear what she had to say about them.

Acts 16:18 The Roman empire was so big and contained so many countries that they did whatever they could to keep the peace of Rome. If a person taught that you should follow God and not the emperor of Rome, the Roman government would arrest them, and maybe even kill them in order to make sure that everyone obeyed the emperor. The spirit of divination in the slave girl knew that Paul and his companions were servants of the Most High God and were teaching people about Jesus, God the Son. As the girl followed them, she would cry out, telling everyone who they were, trying to get them in trouble with the Romans.

After several days of the slave girl crying out that they were servants of the Most High God, **Paul commanded the spirit in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.** When the evil spirit came out of the slave girl, she could no longer hear the messages the spirit had been telling her. This meant that people would no longer pay money to hear what she had to say.

Acts 16:19-24 Because the girl's owners knew that their hope of making money off of the slave girl was gone, **they grabbed Paul and Silas and took them to the Roman magistrates,** members of the government. The girl's owners told the magistrates that Paul and Silas were Jews, and that they were teaching things that were not legal in Rome. The magistrates had Paul and Silas striped naked, beaten with rods, and thrown into prison. To make sure that Paul and Silas did not escape, the jailer put their feet in stocks, two pieces of wood that locked together around their ankles.

Lesson 53: Acts 16:25-40 The Philippian Jailer Converted

Background: Paul and Silas in the prison at Philippi.

Acts 16:25-26 What happened when the great earthquake shook the prison?_____

Acts 16:27-34 What was the jailer about to do when he thought all the prisoners had escaped?_____

Acts 16:35-40 What did the Roman magistrates want to do to Paul and Silas in the morning?_____

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Acts 16:25-40 Question Answers

Acts 16:25-26 Paul and Silas had been praying and singing hymns, songs to God, all night long. All the other prisoners could hear them and the jailer in charge of keeping the prisoners in jail could hear them. When the prison suddenly began to shake, **all the doors opened by themselves and everyone's bonds fell off of their hands and feet.**

Acts 16:27-34 Seeing that all the prison doors were opened, the jailer thought that all the prisoners must have escaped. Because he knew that the Roman government would torture him to death for failing to do his job, **the jailer pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself,** but Paul yelled out to stop him.

Because only God could open all the doors of the prison and unlock all of the shackles and stocks from the hands and feet of the prisoners, everyone knew that God was saying that Paul and Silas were speaking for Him, and that everyone in the prison should listen to them. Even though they could have just run outside, the prisoners all stayed where they were, because they knew God was doing something amazing. When the jailer saw that the prisoners had not left, and that he would not be tortured and killed by Rome, he too knew that God was doing something amazing. The jailer then asked Paul and Silas, "what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas told the jailer about Jesus and they baptized him and his whole family, because they believed that Jesus had died to forgive their sins.

Acts 16:35-40 The Roman magistrates, officers of the Roman government, had had Paul and Silas beaten, striped of their clothes, and thrown in prison for teaching about Jesus and casting a spirit of divination out of a slave girl.

In the morning, **the magistrates told the jailer to release Paul and Silas,** but Paul refused to come out. What the magistrates did not know at the time that they were having Paul and Silas publicly beaten and then jailed was that they were Roman citizens. As citizens of Rome, the magistrates were not allowed to have them beaten. Paul knew that the magistrates had broken the laws of Rome by ordering for he and Silas to be publicly beaten and striped of their clothes, so he demanded that they come into the prison to apologize for what they had done. The magistrates knew that if they did not make Paul and Silas happy, they might tell the Roman governor and he would severely punish the magistrates for breaking the law.

When the magistrates had apologized they asked Paul and Silas to leave the city. Before departing, they went to visit Lydia, the seller of purple once more. After encouraging all the followers of Jesus in the city, they continued their journey.