

# Redirection from the Holy Spirit

Acts 16

## MAIN IDEAS

Read Acts 16:6-10. What do you notice about Paul's interaction with the Holy Spirit? Consider Proverbs 16:9. Compare the plans Paul had made to the plan God had for Paul's next mission. Consider the modern day locations of the places named. Be sure to discuss Paul's response to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Notice the shift in pronouns in Acts 16:6-9, Acts 16:10, then again in Acts 16:40. Who has joined Paul, Silas, and Timothy? Consider the Holy Spirit's role in this.

Read Acts 16:13-15. Discuss what we know about Lydia. Consider her background, conversion, and response to the Gospel message.

Read Acts 16:16-19 and the interaction they have with a slave girl. What do we know about her? What tone of voice do you believe she was using in verse 17? How does Paul respond? Consider Matthew 8:28-34 and Mark 9:29.

Scripture does not directly tell us if the slave girl became a convert. Read Acts 16:18-19 and Matthew 12:43-45. What do you believe happened to the girl?

Reference Acts 16:22-24. What were some of the conditions of Paul and Silas' imprisonment? Perhaps research the conditions of the inner part of a Roman prison.

What was their response in Acts 16:25, and what impact does it have on others? Consider why they were imprisoned along with 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:4-7, and Matthew 11:28-30.

Read Acts 16:25-34. What do we know about the jailer? Consider his interactions with Paul and Silas, his background, conversion, and response to the Gospel.

In Acts 16:35-40, Paul and Silas willingly returned to prison after their interaction with the jailer. The following day, orders came for their release. Since God is sovereign and would have known this, what was the purpose of the earthquake? In addition, Paul and Silas reveal they are Roman citizens. Had they revealed this earlier, they likely would have been spared imprisonment. Why didn't they share this earlier?

When did they finally leave Philippi? Why is this important?

What do you notice about the role of Jesus in the lives of Lydia, the slave girl, and the jailer?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

In this chapter, we see that the Holy Spirit can guide as much by the closing of doors as He does by the opening of doors. Where have you seen this in your life? Is there a hindered experience you may have been frustrated by but now see it in a new light?

How often do you trust God's leading through the Holy Spirit, and how often do you trust your own leading? Are there certain areas you seem to listen to the Spirit more than others?

We met three people in Acts 16 who all came from different backgrounds and different stages of a faith journey. Yet, Jesus worked through Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke to enter in and to transform each of these lives. Who do you relate to the most and why? How can you be encouraged by their experiences? What do these experiences teach us about being led by the Spirit and impacting the lives of those around us?

Though Paul and Silas could have demanded their rights as Roman citizens before their imprisonment, they did not. Instead, they were obedient to the Lord's leading. Do you live your life according to your prescribed or perceived human rights or in obedience to the will of God?

## GROUP RESPONSE

Share any experiences where the Holy Spirit has led you by closing doors you had planned to walk through. How have you seen the Lord's will unfold through that?

Share an area of your life where you trust your own guidance more than the Spirit's. Take steps to turn that area over to God, and ask someone to hold you accountable in those steps.

## REPRODUCE

Can you think of people in your life who are of similar backgrounds to Lydia, the slave girl, and the jailer? What can you do to share the Gospel message with each of them? If someone does not come to mind, ask the Lord to reveal someone to you who needs to hear this truth.

## KEY VERSES

Additional verses from the study:

- Proverbs 16:9
- Matthew 8:28-34
- Mark 9:29
- Matthew 12:43-45
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Matthew 11:28-30