

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Paul's Second Missionary Journey - Part 1

### Acts 16

## Opening

Gathering: What ways does the Spirit use to guide us?

Today's Focus: Paul recognized and followed the Spirit's guidance so that his planned visits to existing churches resulted in the spread of the gospel into Europe.

Key Verses: *Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Acts 15:36*

*After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:10*

Opening Prayer

## Lesson

The Second Act (*Acts 11:19-26*)

Who was the chief missionary in the first half of the book of Acts and where was his home base?

Acts 9:32; 10:44

What city became the new center for missionary efforts in the second half of the book of Acts?

Acts 11:19-21

Who were the first leaders of this church of Gentiles?

Acts 11:25-26

How did their roles change after this first year?

Acts 13:2-3

What was *the work to which I have called them* and how did it differ from Peter's?

Galatians 2:8-9

The First Journey (*Acts 13-14*)

Where was the first stop on this first missionary journey?

Acts 13:4-6a (*Acts 4:36-37*)

What significant conversion took place on Cyprus?

Acts 13:12

What subtle, but important, changes occurred by the time Barnabas and Paul reached Perga?

Acts 13:13

Where did they go next and what did they do there?

Acts 13:14-15, 42

What happened when they came back the next sabbath as requested?

Acts 13:44-48

Did they ignore the Jews from this point on?

Acts 13:50-51; 14:1

What did they do when they were physically threatened in Iconium?

Acts 14:4-7

How did things change in Lystra after they were treated as gods when Paul healed a lame man?

Acts 14:19-20

After making disciples in Derbe, did they keep going east to avoid their enemies?

Acts 14:21-22

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Page 2

### The Jerusalem Council (*Acts 15:1*)

What did Saul and Barnabas do after completing their journey?

Acts 14:26-28

What happened during this two-year stay in Antioch?

Acts 15:1-2

How did Paul and Barnabas react to the Judaizers pushing for all Christians to be circumcised?

Galatians 2:5

*After much discussion* (v7) and support by Peter and James, what did the church council do?

Acts 15:22-23

What did the letter say?

Acts 15:24-29

What did these four postal workers do after delivering the letter?

Acts 15:30-35

### Can't We Just Get Along? (*Acts 15:36-41*)

What made Paul and Barnabas decide to hit the road again?

Acts 15:36

What problem arose with this suggestion?

Acts 15:37-38

With the recent experience of handling conflict, were they able to come to an agreement?

Acts 15:39a

How did God make good out of this human evil?

Acts 15:39b-41

Was Mark ever able to get back in Paul's good graces?

2 Timothy 4:11 (Colossians 4:10)

### Train an Apprentice (*Acts 16:1-3*)

After rejecting Mark as an apprentice, who did Paul find to train for leading the next generation?

Acts 16:1-2

What did Paul find necessary before taking Timothy with him?

Acts 16:3

Didn't this contradict with his arguments against circumcising in Jerusalem? Why did he do it?

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Did Timothy's uncircumcision indicate that he had not been raised as a Jew?

2 Timothy 3:14-15

Did Timothy become a Christian during this visit by Paul to Lystra?

2 Timothy 1:5

Did Timothy meet Paul's expectations better than his earlier apprentice, Mark?

Philippians 2:22

Did Paul officially ordain Timothy into service?

2 Timothy 1:6

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## Paul's Second Missionary Journey - Part 1

Page 3

### Roadblocks (Acts 16:4-10)

What was one of the purposes for visiting the churches founded on the first journey?

Acts 16:4-5

Did Paul then take the natural route west into Asia to Colossae and Ephesus?

Acts 16:6

Was this mysterious guidance pushing them northward into Bythinia?

Acts 16:7-8

Was this a sign to travel southward along the coast of Asia?

Acts 16:9

Who joined Paul, Silas and Timothy in Troas?

Acts 16:10

*Troas* - Full name was *Alexandrian Troas*, named after Alexander the Great

*Philippi* - Named by and after Alexander's father, Philip of Macedon, who fortified it

*Thessalonica* - Named after Alexander's sister Salonika

*Barclay* - It may be well that there came to Paul the vision of Alexander, the man who conquered the world, and that this new vision gave Paul a new impulse towards making one world for Christ.

### Lydia, The First European Convert (Acts 16:11-15)

Where did they go to follow their call in Macedonia?

Acts 16:11-12

Note: Luke apparently stayed in Philippi until Paul returned on third journey (16:40; 20:5-6)

As a Roman colony, Philippi had few Jews and no synagogue. Where did Paul go on the sabbath?

Acts 16:13

Who became the first new Christian in Europe?

Acts 16:14-15

### Reaching a Lower Class (Acts 16:16-24)

What happened one day as they went to the riverside?

Acts 16:16-17

What did Paul do when this began to interfere with his proclamation of the gospel?

Acts 16:18

Was everyone happy for the freedom Paul gave this girl through the power of Jesus' name?

Acts 16:19-21

How did the magistrates and people respond to these accusations?

Acts 16:22-24

### Suffering for the Gospel (Acts 16:25-26)

How did Paul and Silas respond to their mistreatment and pain?

Acts 16:25

How could they praise God even when they were tortured and wrongfully abused?

2 Timothy 1:11-12; 2:8-10

How did God intervene?

Acts 16:26

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## Paul's Second Missionary Journey - Part 1

Page 4

### Winning the Middle Class (Acts 16:27-34)

Faced with receiving the punishment of escaped prisoners, what did the guard do?

Acts 16:27

How was the jailer's fate changed?

Acts 16:28-29

How was the jailer's fate changed even more importantly?

Acts 16:30-34

### An Official Embarrassment (Acts 16:35-40)

How long were Paul and Silas to spend in jail for disturbing the peace?

Acts 16:35-36

How did Paul use his punishment to build respect for him and the new church in Philippi?

Acts 16:37

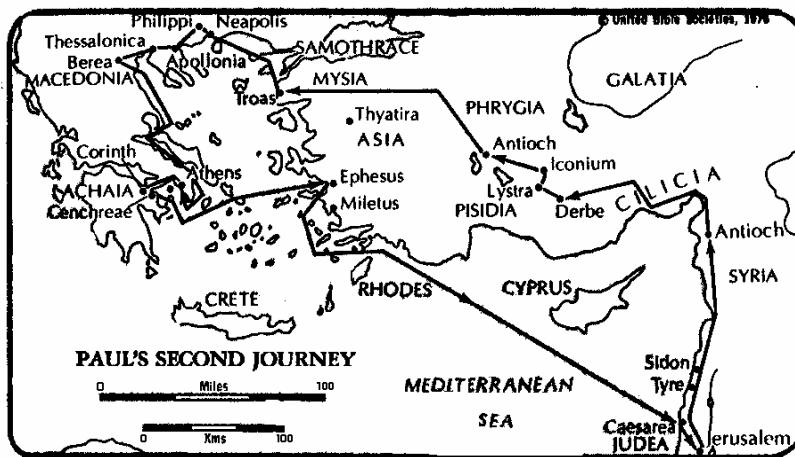
How did the local magistrates respond to this news that could get them into a lot of trouble?

Acts 16:38-39

Did Paul and Silas take the upper hand or did they leave as requested?

Acts 16:40

### Closing Prayer



### Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Who have I felt personally responsible for leading into discipleship and spiritual growth?  
(Acts 14:21-23; 15:36; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-13; 2 Timothy 1:2-14; Philemon)
2. When have I found it difficult to forgive someone for their shortcomings?  
How has / can that relationship been restored?  
(Acts 15:36-41; 2 Timothy 4:11; Matthew 7:1-2; Romans 2:1-4; 2 Corinthians 2:5-12)
3. What have I done to keep myself from interfering with someone's acceptance of the gospel?  
(Acts 16:3, 17; 17:19-34; Romans 14:1-15:7; 1 Cor. 9:12, 19-23; 10:23-33; Galatians 2:11-16)
4. How have I recognized the guidance of the Spirit in my life?  
(Acts 16:6-10; Judges 6:36-40; 1 Samuel 3; 1 Corinthians 2)
5. When have I been joyful and praise-filled during painful or difficult times?  
(Acts 16:22-25; Job 1:13-22; 2:7-10; Psalm 22; Daniel 3:13-30)