

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 = Peter, witness to the Jews - Jerusalem, capital of Judaism

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

Acts 11:19-21 = Antioch in Syria, third largest city in Roman empire

Who were the first leaders of this church of Gentiles?

Acts 11:25-26 = Barnabas and Saul, led Antioch church for a year

How did their roles change after this first year?

Acts 13:2-3 = They were sent out to do *the work to which God called them*

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

Galatians 2:8-9 = They were missionaries to the Gentiles, Peter was to the Jews

The First Journey (Acts 13-14)

Where was the first stop on this first missionary journey?

Acts 13:4-6a (Acts 4:36-37) = The island of Cyprus, Barnabas' home

What significant conversion took place on Cyprus? = Saul changed to Paul as outreach begins

Acts 13:12 = The proconsul (highest Roman official on island) believed

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

Acts 13:13 = Luke began to refer to Paul as the leader; Saul (Heb) now called Paul (Roman)

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

Acts 13:14-15, 42 = Pisidian Antioch in Galatia, taught in synagogue, asked to return

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

Acts 13:44-48 = The Jews rejected them so they turned their attention to Gentiles

Did they ignore the Jews from this point on? = Kicked out of Antioch, they went to Iconium

Acts 13:50-51; 14:1 = No, they always began at the synagogue in a new city

What did they do when they were physically threatened in Iconium? = Lycaonia was a district of Galatia

Acts 14:4-7 = They went and preached in and around Lystra and Derbe, cities in Lycaonia

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

Acts 14:19-20 = Jews who pursued them turned the crowd on them, stoned almost to death

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

Acts 14:21-22 = No, they revisited the cities (despite risk) and encouraged disciples

Bible Stories for Adults

Paul's Second Missionary Journey - Part 1

Page 2

The Jerusalem Council (*Acts 15:1*)

- What did Saul and Barnabas do after completing their journey? = (journey was 2 yrs, 1500 miles)
Acts 14:26-28 = Reported success with Gentiles, stayed in Antioch a long time (2 yrs)
- What happened during this two-year stay in Antioch? = P&B went to Jerusalem to set things straight
Acts 15:1-2 = Judean Christians came to Antioch saying Gentiles must be circumcised
- How did Paul and Barnabas react to the Judaizers pushing for all Christians to be circumcised?
Galatians 2:5 = They didn't give in for a moment and stood up for the truth of the gospel
- After much discussion* (v7) and support by Peter and James, what did the church council do?
Acts 15:22-23 = They sent a letter, also sent Judas and Silas to confirm message
- What did the letter say? = Judaizers acted on their own, church supported Barnabas and Paul
Acts 15:24-29 = Not required to be circumcised, but should abstain from immorality
- What did these four postal workers do after delivering the letter? = Judas (& Silas?) returned to Jer.
Acts 15:30-35 = Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch teaching and preaching

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

- What made Paul and Barnabas decide to hit the road again?
Acts 15:36 = Paul wanted to check up on the churches they had planted
- What problem arose with this suggestion? = John Mark had left them in Perga on first journey
Acts 15:37-38 = Barnabas wanted to take his cousin Mark, but Paul disagreed
- With the recent experience of handling conflict, were they able to come to an agreement?
Acts 15:39a = No, they had an argument and we never see them working together again
- How did God make good out of this human evil? = Both went to their home towns first
Acts 15:39b-41 = The split resulted in two missionary teams going two directions
- Was Mark ever able to get back in Paul's good graces? = Paul asked for him from prison
2 Timothy 4:11 (Colossians 4:10) = Yes, he later became helpful to Paul

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 = A respected Jew/Greek boy from Lystra named Timothy
- What did Paul find necessary before taking Timothy with him?
Acts 16:3 = Circumcised him
- Didn't this contradict with his arguments against circumcising in Jerusalem? Why did he do it?
1 Corinthians 9:19-23 = So Jews wouldn't be offended and reject the gospel
- Did Timothy's uncircumcision indicate that he had not been raised as a Jew?
2 Timothy 3:14-15 = No, his mother had raised him as a Jew despite his Greek father
- Did Timothy become a Christian during this visit by Paul to Lystra?
2 Timothy 1:5 = His grandmother Lois and mother Eunice brought him to faith
- Did Timothy meet Paul's expectations better than his earlier apprentice, Mark?
Philippians 2:22 = Yes, he *proved himself* and Paul felt for him as a son
- Did Paul officially ordain Timothy into service?
2 Timothy 1:6 = Yes, by laying on of hands (1 Timothy 4:14 - Ordained by elders)

Bible Stories for Adults

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 = Report on the decision of the Jerusalem council

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

Acts 16:6 = No, after visiting Galatian churches, was prevented from entering Asia

Was this mysterious guidance pushing them northward into Bythinia?

Acts 16:7-8 = No, had to skirt the border and ended up in Troas (10 miles south of Troy ruins)

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

Acts 16:9 = No, a very clear sign was given to keep going into Greece

Who joined Paul, Silas and Timothy in Troas?

Acts 16:10 = Luke (we) - Paul maybe found this doctor for his *thorn in the flesh* (2 Cor 12:7)

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? = Samothrace - mountainous island landmark

Acts 16:11-12 = 2 day sail across Aegean to Philippi - Neapolis was port for Philippi

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 = Riverside 1½ miles west of city - Jews met in open by water when no synagogue

Who became the first new Christian in Europe? = Purple dye gathered by drop from shellfish

Acts 16:14-15 = Lydia, a wealthy woman; Thyatira - in Asian region of ancient Lydia

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

What happened one day as they went to the riverside? = *MHG* - God to Jews, Zeus to Greeks

Acts 16:16-17 = Young demon-possessed (Greek pythoness) slave girl shouted intros

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

Acts 16:18 = He exorcised the demon out of her

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

Acts 16:19-21 = Girl's owners, upset by loss of business, brought charges on them

How did the magistrates and people respond to these accusations?

Acts 16:22-24 = Had disturbing Jews beaten and thrown in prison, legs spread painfully

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

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

Acts 16:25 = Singing hymns of praise late into the night - dark, stuffy inner dungeon

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

2 Timothy 1:11-12; 2:8-10 = Paul found it an honor to suffer for his work in the gospel

How did God intervene? = An earthquake that opened doors and chains would cause a cave-in

Acts 16:26 = God freed them by opening doors & releasing chains - earthquake was byproduct

Bible Stories for Adults

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 = He started to kill himself - a noble response for Romans

How was the jailer's fate changed?

Acts 16:28-29 = The prisoners had not escaped and stopped him from suicide

How was the jailer's fate changed even more importantly? = Saved his life eternally

Acts 16:30-34 = He and his family became Christians

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 = A public flogging and one night in jail was their punishment

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

Acts 16:37 = Said he was Roman citizen; illegal to punish citizens without Roman trial

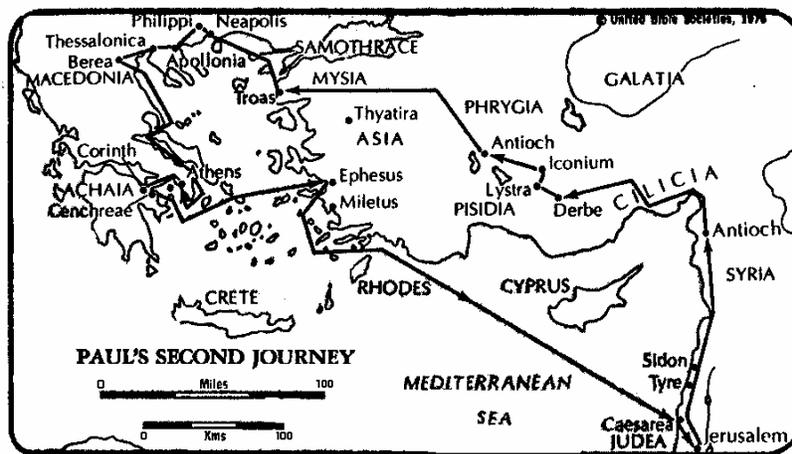
How did the local magistrates respond to this news that could get them into a lot of trouble?

Acts 16:38-39 = They apologized and asked Paul and Silas to leave quietly

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

Acts 16:40 = They left after first meeting with and encouraging the church

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)