

Message Outline

*Paul: Following
God's Leading*

Acts 16



Intro: Last week, Acts 15 and how to handle conflict: church conflict and personal conflict.

Read: Acts 15:36-16:40

15:36-41—Mission agreed upon...issue was with Mark...

v.1—Same city of lame man's healing (ch.14).

v.1b-3—Timothy's background...

- Circumcision unnecessary in Jerusalem Council decision (cf. ch.15)...
- Timothy circumcised not for salvation but for mission w/ people in mixed audiences...

v.4-5—Growing faith, growing numbers...

v.6-10—Two closed doors until the Macedonia mission opens...

v.11-12—Philippi, key city in Macedonia...

- The "we" seems to include Luke (v.10).

v.13-15—Lydia's business and affluence ("purple goods" and "house")...

v.16-24—Exploited slave girl...

- Healing that turns into beating/arresting...

v.25-34—Singing/praying in prison and a soldiers conversion...

v.35-40—Released with dignity...

Discerning God's Leading

1) The S_____ (v.6-7, Jn.16:13)

- Part of the Spirit's work is as personal guide...

2) S_____ Disciplines (v.25, 10, 13:2-3, 5)

- Receptors to receive the Spirit's signals: prayer, God's Word, fasting, Sabbath, solitude, service, Christian conferencing...

3) S_____ in Life (v.6-10)

- What's God opening/closing in front of us?

4) S_____ of S_____ (15:36, 16:10, 40)

- Paul's not making decisions alone...

5) S_____ (v.9-10)

- God's special revelation to people...

Small Group Reflection Questions

(Please take time to ponder and pencil in to prep for this week's small group session.)

Read: Galatians 5-6

**From this passage, what do you notice about how Christians are to live?*

**What spoke to you this past Sunday (ie. what made you laugh, learn, look deeper at life etc.)?*

**Thru a variety of circumstances, Paul sensed God's guidance in this journey (15:6-10). Has there been a time in your life you've clearly sensed God's leading in a certain direction? How did you know it was God's leading?*

**Paul had two failed journey's before Philippi opened up for him. Have you ever had any failed paths that later led to the right path? Explain.*

**Lots happened in Philippi (Lydia's conversion, slave girls deliverance, arresting, beating, jailing, earthquaking, etc.). Which story most captured your attention? Why?*

**Why did God lead Paul to Macedonia if it included beatings and imprisonings?*