

Acts Bible Study Discussion Questions

Chapter 16

Acts 16:1-11

1. How much is known about Timothy? (See below.)
2. The church had decided circumcision was not necessary. Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?
3. Reread 13:36. What were the purposes of this journey? How were they accomplished? Did they also plant some new churches?
4. What was "the province of Asia"? Why did Paul and his companions not go there? Likewise, Mysia and Bithynia? Where did they go instead?
5. What happened at Troas? What did they do about it?
6. Who are the "we" mentioned in v. 10?

Acts 16:9-15

7. Why was Philippi an important city?
8. Why did they go out of the city on the Sabbath? (See 17:1.)
9. Who was Lydia? How does she figure into the events at Philippi?

Acts 16:16-24

10. How did Paul and Silas get into trouble in Philippi?
11. Why were the magistrates so ready to punish them? What was their punishment?

Acts 16:25-40

12. How did Paul and Silas behave in the jail?
13. What happened about midnight? How did the jailer respond?
14. What happened at sunrise? What was Paul's response? Why?
15. How would Paul's actions have affected the Phillippian Christians?

Timothy was Paul's own "son in the gospel." He was born in the Asiatic district of Lycaonia, to a Greek father and a Jewish mother. From his infancy he was instructed by his mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) in the Hebrew scriptures, but he remained uncircumcised, probably at the demand of his father. Paul appreciated the young Timothy's gifts and took him along as a traveling assistant. But a *Mamzer*, a "bastard," as a child of a Jewish mother and heathen father was called by the Jews, would have had no access to the synagogue without circumcision, so Paul circumcised him.

Paul's letters mention Timothy so many times that it would not be hard to trace his course. Finally he accompanied Paul on his final trip to Jerusalem. During Paul's captivity at Caesarea Timothy was probably absent, sent to the churches by Paul, but after Paul arrived at Rome, Timothy again joined him. He was probably with Paul on his last tour of the churches of Asia, was left behind at Ephesus, and there he received the two Timothy letters, which are the last specific mentions of him in the New Testament.

Acts Bible Study Discussion Questions

Chapter 17

Acts 17:1-8

1. Why was Thessalonica an important city?
2. What did Paul and Silas do when they got to Thessalonica?
3. How was their message received in the synagogue? Whom did they convince?
4. Why did the Jews oppose them? Why did they attack Jason?
5. How did the city officials react to the charges?

Acts 17:9-17

6. How were Paul and Silas treated in Berea? Why?
7. What did the Thessalonian Jews do then?
8. What did the believers do? Why do you suppose they did that?
9. How was Paul's activity in Athens different from that in other cities?

Acts 17:18-34

10. Who challenged Paul? What did they do?
11. How did Paul share the Gospel with these gentile Athenians?
12. How was Paul's message received? Describe the three different reactions.