



acts

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

ACTS 16:11-24 / January 27

Welcome! Thank you for joining us in studying through Acts! Tonight we will spend time studying Acts 16. We learned from the the first 10 verses in chapter 16 that Paul and Silas planned to go to Asia, but God had other plans for them. After receiving a vision, the missionaries head to Macedonia to share the Gospel there instead. For this study, we will look at two people they meet, Lydia and a slave girl, and compare them.

Let's begin by reading Acts 16:11-15.

Who is on this journey and where did they go? Who are the other people in this story? What is happening?

- Based on his first missionary journey, where does Paul usually begin when entering a new place? (*He usually goes first to the Jewish synagogue.*)
- Where does he go instead and who does he meet there?
- From the text, what can we know about Lydia? (*She is a seller of purple goods, wealthy, influential within the Roman community, she was a worshipper of God, she is hospitable and generous.*) In general, what do you think daily life would be like for Lydia?
- What happens to Lydia during Paul's visit to the riverside? How does she respond?
- According to the text, who gets the credit for Lydia's salvation?

Based on the text we can determine that Lydia is a wealthy, independent and influential women in this Roman colony. People who knew her would have surely thought she had it all. She acknowledges God but is still lacking the one thing needed to be saved – Jesus!

- Are there people in your life like Lydia? Does their lifestyle keep you from sharing the Gospel with them? Why or why not?

Next, let's read through Acts 16:16-24. Who are the people in this story? Summarize what is happening?

- From the text, what can we know about the slave girl? (*She had a spirit of divination-demon possessed, she was a slave, she was poor, she was good at what she did and made her owners rich.*) In general, what would daily life have been like for this slave girl?
- What kind of spirit is in the slave girl? What is she saying while following the men around? Is it true?
- Why do you think this is making Paul mad? What does he do about it? Who gets the credit?

Paul and Silas knew this demonic spirit was trying to associate with them by speaking things that were true about them, and Paul commands the spirit out of the slave girl in Jesus' name.

Two times in Mark and once in Luke, Jesus comes in contact with demon-possessed people saying true things about Him, and He rebukes them all. Paul (and Jesus) does not want the people to be confused or taken advantage of by someone associating themselves with the true Gospel while having evil intentions.

- Are there people in your life like the slave girl? Does their lifestyle keep you from sharing the Gospel with them? Why or why not?

Compare the two women in these stories.

- What is different about them? What is the same about them?
- What does this mean about the Gospel?
- How can knowing this help you as you share the Gospel?

What do these two stories teach us about the power of God? How does each story teach you to trust the Lord?

The one thing every human on earth has in common is our need for a Savior, no matter how good or how bad our lives look on the outside. The Gospel can save anyone.

Close in prayer. Pray specifically that the Gospel would become the thing that encourages us the most so that we can not help but share it with everyone we meet.

KIDS FOCUS

Tonight we will learn about the power of Jesus to save anyone! In this story, Lydia is a wealthy woman that Paul meets in Philippi.

- Read Acts 16:11-15
- What can we know about Lydia? (*She sells purple goods, she is rich, she is influential, she knows God*)
- What is Lydia doing at the river? Does that mean she knows Jesus? (*No!*)
- Why does Lydia still need Jesus if she is praying to God? What did Jesus do to save people?
- Who opened Lydia's heart to hear about Jesus? (*Reread verse 14*)
- After she is saved, what does she do next? (*She tells her whole household so they can be saved and wants to be part of the church!!*)
- Do you believe that the Good News about Jesus is for everyone? If so, is there someone you know who you can tell about Jesus? How can you be like Paul in today's story?

Close in prayer. Pray that you would know the truth about Jesus and that you would be so excited to share it with someone!