



Main Passage: Acts 16:6-10

Theological Theme

God calls and directs His people in every detail of life. Though we make plans, the Lord directs our lives, and we need to be led by Him.

Introduction

- ❓ Why is it hard for child to let go of a valued item he or she has in his or her grasp, even if it is in exchange for something better?
- ❓ What are the things we don't want to let go of, even for the hope of something better?

1. Stopped by the Spirit (Acts 16:6-8)

Paul had been encouraging and strengthening churches around the region of Galatia and was ready to move on to a new area. He had planned to go west toward Asia Minor, the area of modern-day Turkey. Paul wanted to share the good news of the gospel to the people there, but Scripture tells us that he was forbidden by the Holy Spirit from doing so.

- ❓ Have you ever felt like the timing was not right to do something God called you to do? How does being in the Scriptures help us hear from the Holy Spirit and follow Him obediently?
- ❓ When have you seen someone give up when his or her attempt to serve the Lord did not go as planned? How might that be a misunderstanding of God's timing in our lives?
- ❓ Application: How do you typically respond when your plans are thwarted? How might that need to change in light of Paul's example? Read Jeremiah 29:11

2. Clear Direction (Acts 16:9-10)

After taking the step of obedient faith and going to Troas, Paul received clear direction from the Lord in a vision. In this vision, a man asked him to come to Macedonia on the continent of Europe. This prompted Paul and his team to go to Europe and take the gospel to that continent for the first time. (Read Exodus 3:11, 13; Exodus 4:1, 10, 13)

- ❓ How does reading this account of Paul's journey change your perspective on obstacles to your plans?
- ❓ What keeps you from obeying God with urgency?

- ❓ Application: Where have you been able to look back at your life and see God's work in a way you didn't initially understand or expect?

3. Knowing His Voice (Proverbs 16:1-3)

There is nothing wrong with making plans. Man was created in the image of God, and God is an organized planner and preparer. It is part of our nature to plan and prepare for what we think is ahead. The key is to make your plans under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to listen when God speaks.

- ❓ How can you see the principles in this passage applied to Paul's situation in Acts 16? How do you need to apply the principles of this proverb to your life?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to roll onto the Lord so He can shoulder the weight instead of you trying to control the situation?

Call to Action:

Ask where God is working and where you can join Him. Lead a dedicated time of prayer for multiplication. Where are you called?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).