

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of June 1, 2014

This Week's Focus: How God is leading Paul and his companions while they live on mission with Him.

This Week's Text: Acts 16:1-12

“Paul was a reed in non-essentials — an iron pillar in essentials.” **John Newton**

When the conscience is freed from self-justification by the gospel, it makes us very culturally flexible. We must firmly contend for the gospel, but it is that very gospel that makes us pliant and open about most everything else.

Tim Keller

*For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. **1 Cor. 9:19-23***

Related Texts: 1 Timothy 1:2, Philippians 2:19-22, Galatians 2:2-5, Proverbs 16:1&9

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What do we know about Lystra and Derbe from Paul's first missionary journey?
- What do we know about Timothy? Reference 1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:3-7, and Philippians 2:19-22.
- Do you have, or have you had a Timothy in your life?
- Why would Paul insist on circumcising Timothy? Is there a tension with Paul's uncompromising stand in 15:1-5? What does this teach us about where to contend and where to compromise for the gospel?

- Can you think of an example where the Lord asked you to do something not because it was necessary for your salvation, but because it was necessary for you to reach others?
- What does it mean to “contextualize” the gospel? What does it mean to live on mission with God?
- What are some advantages and dangers we face while trying to contextualize and live on mission in our culture?
- How can you/we do a better job contextualizing and living on mission?
- What does this narrative tell us about how God will guide us? Reference Acts 15-16:11.
- In verses 6-7 we read that the Holy Spirit kept them from preaching the word in Asia and prevented them from entering Bithynia. Why would the Holy Spirit keep them from spreading the gospel in Asia?
- This is a speculative question, but how might the Holy Spirit stop one from going to a certain place?
 - Can you share a time when you felt the Holy Spirit guide you by either leading you to a certain place or preventing you from going?
- Also in verse 10 is the word “conclude” which suggests discussions took place concerning the mission. So far, Acts has been written in the third person (using they, he, or names). However, in verse 10 the pronoun changes to “we”. What are the implications of this change?

Gospel Celebration:

- Although there is uncertainty in this world, our salvation is secure in Christ.
- God not only saved us but also sends us into the world. Because of the gospel, we have the privilege and the responsibility of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Prayer:

- Pray for opportunity and wisdom to share Christ.
- Pray for wisdom as we live on mission and engage cultural and racial differences for the cause of Christ.

Next Week’s Text: Acts 16:11-24