

October 2021

Paul hears the Macedonian call! We pick up with Paul on his missionary travels in as the apostle receives a life-changing vision from the Lord. It seems the Holy Spirit has been preventing Paul from carrying out his intended plans to travel into Asia. He had been preventing Paul from entering Bithynia as well, so Paul finds himself in Troas when he received the strange calling to head into Macedonia with the good news. Consider how disruptive this must've been to Paul's itinerary. To travel into Macedonia was NOT in his plans. It also required him to cross ethnic and cultural barriers! Paul would be entering an entirely new culture to share the gospel. How daunting the challenge must've seemed to Paul.

Nonetheless, Paul obeyed. Results were mixed. In Philippi he met and converted a woman named Lydia. He later encountered a slave girl who was possessed with an evil spirit. Healing her of that possession angered her "owners" and landed him in prison. When was the last time we ended up in such hot water for the practice of our faith?

Paul would experience hardship after hardship after that and had to have wondered what the Spirit had been thinking in calling him to Macedonia! He was beaten and run out of city upon city before winding up in Corinth where he would stay for more than a year and a half. This month I hope you'll take note of the way the Spirit of God was directing the mission of Paul and was with him every step of the way. That same Spirit is still guiding and leading us today. How can we make ourselves open to the Spirit's leading as we continue taking the gospel into and throughout the world?

-Jim

Discovery Bible Study

Begin with Prayer

What have you been praying about that you would like the group to pray for?

- ◆ *Gratitude*— What happened last week you are most thankful for?
- ◆ *Intercession*— How can we pray for you this week?

Read the text & discuss...

- 1) What do we learn about God, his nature, character or plan?
- 2) What do we learn about ourselves, our nature, our weaknesses, our needs?
- 3) How do I need to respond to this text?
- 4) Who will I share this with this week?

How can we help with a challenge you're facing?

Weekly Schedule

Oct. 17	Acts 16:6-40
Oct. 24	Acts 17:1-34
Oct. 31	Acts 18:1-28