

Acts 16:1-15

Another Missionary Adventure Begins

Scripture: Acts 16:1-15

Memory Verse: Acts 16:14b *“The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”*

Lesson Focus: We begin our first lesson of 2024 with the launch of another new missionary adventure! We will first watch a video which will walk us through some of the highlights of this adventure before we open our Bibles and join Paul on his journey. And as we see God open the hearts of people in these new lands to respond, our prayer is the Lord will also open the hearts of our kids in 2024 to respond to His Word!

Activities and Crafts: Lydia Conversion Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Open Your Heart to Jesus

Starter Activity: Bible Backroads Video

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room after worship for another Bible Backroads video (about 15 minutes) that will get us all “packed and ready” for Paul’s next missionary adventure. * Paul will be on the move again throughout the next several chapters of Acts and this video will give us a good overview of our next several lessons through this book. We will follow-up the video with a shorter lesson.

Before you watch the video, have a little bit of discussion of what we’ve learned so far.
Q: What book of the Bible have we been studying for the past several months at RMC?
A: Acts!

We have seen a lot of action and adventure * in this book so far as the early church has grown from being just a handful of Jewish believers in Jerusalem to thousands and thousands of Jewish and Gentile believers across the ancient world.

Q: Who did we see God send out on a missionary adventure to bring the gospel to foreign peoples? A: Paul (and Barnabus)

Paul is on the move again and we’re first going to watch a video that will give us a quick overview of some of the action and adventures we will study next several weeks!

START VIDEO. *

As the final screen of the video said, let’s open our Bibles now and read for ourselves to see what happens on Paul’s next missionary adventure!

Bible Study:

Acts 16:1a: Chapter 15 ends with Barnabus going back to the island of Cyprus so Paul chooses Silas to accompany him as they revisit cities where they had planted churches. *

Acts 16:1b-3: And here we are introduced to Timothy, a young man that we read a lot about elsewhere in the Bible. His Mom and grandma were believers and taught him the Scriptures when he was even a little kid like you! * (see **2 Timothy 3:15**) Here we see him joining Paul and Silas on their missionary adventure!

Acts 16:4-5: You may remember the “family feud” that was settled in our study last week of chapter 15: Did these non-Jewish believers need to keep the law to be saved? Q: What was their answer? A: NO! * Notice that the churches only get stronger as they deliver this good news to them!

Acts 16:6-8: Here we see the Holy Spirit mysteriously guiding the missionaries away from certain cities. We aren’t given details, but maybe this simple illustration helps... Q: When you trick-or-treat you go from door-to-door and ring each doorbell. What happens when you ring the doorbell and no one answers? * A: You move on! Well, in a similar way there were no “treats” in these cities and the Lord directed them to move on.

Acts 16:9-10: And rather than wandering from town to town aimlessly, Paul gets direction from the Lord to go West into Europe. Notice the change in subject in the text: Paul, Silas, and Timothy have been described as “they” so far. But now the party is described as “we”. This means Luke, the author of this book, is now part of the party! *

Acts 16:11-12: After about 1000 miles of travel over land and sea they finally arrive in Philippi which is in modern-day northern Greece. **Teachers:** Consider pointing the distance out on the map in your rooms! *
Q: Did any of you travel long distances for Christmas break? It is about 1000 miles to get to Disneyland from here. Imagine going all the way there without a car or airplane!
Q: Why did they go there? Not for vacation, but to share the gospel! (see v. 10) *
Acts 16:13: And sharing the gospel is what they did!
Q: With who? A: Women! Women were just as important to the missionaries as men!

Acts 16:14-15: Lydia knew about God, but did not yet know about Jesus. And the Lord opened up her heart to believe and receive! She and her whole household believed and got baptized and her home appears to become the foundation of a new church plant!

Key Point: We will cover the rest of the Philippi story next week, but to close today’s lesson notice how the Lord “opened up her heart” to respond to the gospel message. Maybe you have been coming to church for a long time, but haven’t really opened up to the gospel message. * May the Lord open up **your** heart in 2024 to respond to the gospel!

Or maybe you have a family or friend that isn’t a believer. Continue sharing with them and pray that the Lord would open up their heart in 2024 to respond to the gospel!

FIND THE TREASURE



Read 2 Tim. 3:14-15
When was Timothy taught
the Scriptures?

PARENT CHALLENGE
If you could go on a missionary
adventure where would you go?

Read Acts 16:14
Is your heart open to
respond to the Word of
God?

