



WORK OF THE SPIRIT

Acts Chapter 16

Lesson 13

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What blessing did you receive from last week's study?
2. God's power is released in our lives when we praise Him. 2 Chronicles 20:22 records, *Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people ... who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.* It's true, when we choose to magnify the name of the Lord, God works!

Paul and Silas experienced God's power in an amazing way when they began *praying and singing hymns* to God in a dark prison cell. Though they had been unjustly arrested, beaten, and imprisoned, Paul and Silas chose to praise the Lord. Praising the Lord lifts our hearts and eyes off our current trials and rivets our focus on God. As God becomes our focus, our faith is strengthened and God is able to work in our lives.

Read Acts 16 to capture the power of praise. Briefly summarize the events of each section below:

- a. Acts 16:1-10
 - b. Acts 16:11-22
 - c. Acts 16:23-34
 - d. Acts 16:35-40
3. Praise starts as you open your heart to God's Word. Take a moment to praise the Lord for opening your heart to His Word.

The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 16:14

SECOND DAY: Read Acts 16:1-10

1. As Paul and Silas went back to the cities visited on the first missionary journey, they stopped in Derbe and Lystra. From Acts 16:1-2 describe the *disciple* they met there.
 - a. Use 2 Timothy 1:2-5 to further describe this *disciple*.

2. Paul *wanted* Timothy to join him, so what did he do? Acts 16:3a
 - a. Why did Paul do this? Acts 16:3b
 - (1) Paul did not believe circumcision was essential for salvation, yet he felt it necessary for Timothy to be circumcised. Use 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 to explain Paul's reasoning.

3. As *they went through the cities*, what did Paul and his company deliver to the believers? Acts 16:4
 - a. Comment on what happened as a result of their ministry.

4. Read Acts 16:6-7 to note how the Holy Spirit directed their journey.
 - a. What does this teach you about the Holy Spirit? See also Proverbs 3:5-6.

5. Once they passed Mysia, *they came down to Troas* (Acts 16:8). What happened there? Acts 16:9

6. *After seeing this vision*, what did they do? Acts 16:10a
 - a. What did they conclude? Acts 16:10b

7. How does the leading of the Holy Spirit in this story minister to you?

THIRD DAY: Read Acts 16:11–22

1. Using Acts 16:11–12 document the journey of Paul and his companions.
2. What did they do *on the Sabbath*? Acts 16:13
3. Describe the *woman* who *heard* them speak. Acts 16:14a
 - a. Use Acts 16:14b to comment on how the Lord worked in her *heart*.
4. From Acts 16:15 note the development of Lydia's relationship with Paul and his companions.
 - a. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in Lydia's life?
5. Record the events that *greatly annoyed* Paul. Acts 16:16–18a
 - a. Why do you think he was *annoyed*?
 - b. Remark on how Paul handled the situation. Acts 16:18b
6. What did *her masters* realize? Acts 16:19a
 - a. How did they react? Acts 16:19b–21
 - (1) What is your opinion of these men and their motives?
7. Summarize the actions of the *multitude* and *magistrates* from Acts 16:22.
8. Contrast Lydia's reception of God's Word with that of the slave *masters*. Share your thoughts.
 - a. How do you desire God's Word to work in your heart?

FOURTH DAY: Read Acts 16:23–34

1. According to Acts 16:23–24, what was done to Paul and Silas?
 - a. How did they respond to their circumstances? Acts 16:25
 - b. What do you find most remarkable about their behavior?
 - (1) Link this with Ephesians 5:18–20 and share your thoughts.
 - (2) Comment on how their behavior affected the other *prisoners*.
2. From Acts 16:26 document all that *suddenly* happened.
 - a. How did the *keeper of the prison* react to this? Acts 16:27
3. What did Paul call out *with a loud voice*? Acts 16:28
 - a. Note the response of the *keeper of the prison* from Acts 16:29–30.
4. Print Paul and Silas' answer to the prison keeper's question. Acts 16:31
 - a. What personally blesses you about this answer?
5. Use Acts 16:32–34 to record what followed.
 - a. What evidences do you see of the prison keeper's transformed life?
6. Share a time God used praise to work in your life.

FIFTH DAY: Read Acts 16:35–40

1. What happened *when it was day*? Acts 16:35

2. What did the *keeper of the prison* do? Acts 16:36a
 - a. What did he urge Paul and Silas to do? Acts 16:36b

3. How did Paul respond to the magistrates' words? Acts 16:37
 - a. What the *magistrates* had done to Paul and Silas as Roman citizens was a serious offense. Why do you think Paul chose this moment to bring this to their attention?

4. When the *magistrates* heard this, how did they react? Acts 16:38–39
 - a. How do you see God turning the tables on Paul and Silas' persecutors?

5. What did Paul and Silas do before departing? Acts 16:40
 - a. Why do you think this was a wise thing to do?

6. Share a time God turned the circumstances in your life around.

