

ACTS 16:1-10

Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.² The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.³ Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.⁴ As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

| Have you ever had a mentor or someone who deeply influenced your spiritual growth? What impact did they have on your life?

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| What do you recall about Paul's experiences in Lystra from Acts 14? How does that history make his return impressive and his discovery of a young, new disciple more interesting?

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| What facts do we learn about Timothy in verses 1-3? Why does Paul decide to have Timothy circumcised (verse 3), even though circumcision was not required for salvation?

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| How are the qualifications listed for Timothy relevant for the work that he is about to do with Paul? How are they relevant for effective ministry today in a small group, church, or mission field?

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+ What is the approach described in verses 4-5 that Paul and Timothy used when visiting churches on this trip? What is the outcome?

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| How would you describe the role of the Holy Spirit in verses 6-10? How can we depend on His guidance in our Christian walk today?

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DAILY READINGS

1. PSALM 25:1-22
2. MATTHEW 10:1-23
3. JOHN 10:1-21
4. LUKE 4:14-30
5. PHILIPPIANS 3:7-21
6. ISAIAH 42:5-16
7. ACTS 16:1-10