

## Acts 16:6-10 (New International Version)

AC 16:6 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. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> 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.



## Acts 16:6-10

Possible starter question: How do you respond to new things? Do you like change or are you resistant to it? Share an example from your own life.

Transitional comment: In this passage, we join Paul and Timothy and other companions as they are embarked on Paul's second missionary journey. To this point, they have been revisiting a number of churches that were started during Paul's first journey. They were strengthening and encouraging those in a work that had already begun. In verses 6-10, this changes as they are dramatically called to do a new work.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead your study (if you haven't already prayed)

Read Acts 16:6-10 together twice. The first time read it with the map in front of you. The second time, read it without the map – focusing on the words.

- Verse 1 says “Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia.” When you imagine these first Christian missionaries and their travels, what feelings does it evoke? What kind of people must they have been? What would their journeys have been like?
- Twice in verses 6 and 7, the Holy Spirit restricts Paul and his companions from doing certain things. What do you think this meant? What might God have used to show them His will?
- Take a few minutes to look at the map. How does the map help inform your understanding of this particular story?
- Paul's dream may tell us as much about Paul's heart as it does about God's will. What is Paul and God's motivation to go to Macedonia?
- Has God ever placed the salvation of others on your heart so deeply that you were moved to do something to help?
- In verse 10, the pronouns change from third person to first person. It's at this point that the writer of the book of Acts, Luke, joins the team. How important is this in the story? Why?
- Take a few moments to recall Paul's personal story (you can skim through his story in Acts 8,9 and 11 if it helps). What makes Paul particularly suited for this new work in Macedonia?
- Paul met Timothy back in Acts 16:1-5. What makes Timothy particularly suited for this new work in Macedonia?
- What was the response from Paul's companions to his dream? What does this tell you about them? What are some reasons they might have chosen not to go to Macedonia? What would have been lost had they played it safe?
- Have you ever had an experience where God called you to do something new – maybe stretching you beyond your comfortable life? How did you respond?
- Is there something He's calling you to right now? Share this with your group and take a few moments to pray for courage for one another.
- During the weeks ahead, we will continue to hear about the vision for Grace Chapel that God has given. It involves three things – New Vitality, New Campuses, and New Partnerships. Which of these resonates most with you? Pray together as God leads Grace Chapel to new things in the days ahead.