

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Acts 16:1-15

Sunday November 15, 2015

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why was Timothy a good choice for Paul to add to his missionary team? Give three possible reasons.

He would understand and be able to communicate effectively with both Jews and Gentiles in the region where Paul intended to minister and further west as they traveled.

He was a highly respected believer among the believers in two different cities. He had a proven record of serving the Lord Jesus before Paul called him to go with him.

His mother and grandmother raised him to know the Scriptures, and as believers in Jesus Christ also they had a great influence upon him. Later, Paul wrote to him: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also" (2 Timothy 1:5)..

2. According to the Jerusalem Council, Timothy did not need to be circumcised to be saved or welcome in the Church. Why do you think Paul circumcised Timothy?

So Timothy could preach the gospel more effectively to the Jews who practiced the law of Moses. To show that Jews did not need to stop practicing circumcision to be saved, or to be Christians, or to be accepted as members in the Church. To also clarify that no one needs to be circumcised or keep the customs of Moses to be saved, because believers are saved by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ through faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

3. Why do you think Paul and his companions needed to teach churches in every town to obey the decisions of the apostles and elders in Jerusalem? What was the result?

They needed to emphasize that their practices and teachings were not just their own ideas that possibly conflicted with other believers, but their practices and teachings were what the apostles and elders in Jerusalem wanted taught and practiced in all the churches, and they

should not be misled by Pharisaic Jews or others who taught differently from them. The church obeyed what the apostles and elders taught through Paul and the churches grew numerically.

4. When the Spirit refused to let them go into the province of Asia or Bithynia, how did Paul and his companions react?

They did not give up but persistently sought the Lord's will as they prayed and made different plans that seemed reasonable to them. They kept their focus on what Jesus Christ and the Church had commissioned them to do and were obedient up to the level of their understanding each day working as missionaries and in the Galatian churches. They remained ready to obey the Holy Spirit immediately once they learned the will of God and where they should go next.

5. What impressed you most about the conversion of Lydia and her household?

Paul and his companions set out to find a small group of praying women to teach them the good news of Jesus without any prejudice and without going to some other city to look for Jewish men to lead to faith in Jesus. The Lord opened Lydia's heart to listen to Paul's teaching and believe. Her faith led her to offer her home to them, which would serve as the first home church in Philippi.

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