

ACTS 10

1. What did the prophets in the early Church do?
 - They taught new truths of God given directly to them by God the Holy Spirit.
 - God also used these prophets to write God's Word in the remaining books of the Bible.
3. Who were the teachers in the early Church?
 - The teachers taught that which was already written in the Bible which we call the Old Testament.
 - The teachers also taught of Christ, and the new teachings which God gave to the apostles and prophets.
4. How are teachers different from prophets?
 - Teachers can make mistakes when teaching God's Word.
 - Teachers did not write God's Word which would become part of the Bible.
5. What were Saul and Barnabas doing in Antioch before God called them to go and teach about Christ?
 - Saul and Barnabas were already teaching and working in their home church.
6. What did the church in Antioch do to show they were in agreement with Saul and Barnabas going to teach people who had never heard of Jesus?
 - The church gathered together.
 - The church leaders placed their hands on them.

- The church would also pray for and help them.
7. Why did Saul and Barnabas first teach the Jews in their synagogues?
 - Because the Jews knew the Old Testament.
 - Because the Jews knew the promises of the Savior.
 8. Who were the three groups who went to the synagogues?
 - 1) Jews
 - 2) Gentiles who were circumcised & called proselytes.
 - 3) Gentiles who were not circumcised & called God-fearers.
 9. As Paul and Barnabas returned to the towns where they had taught, what else did they do?
 - Paul and Barnabas appointed elders to teach, guide, and encourage the believers.
 - After their first missionary journey was over, Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch and taught for a time.
 - It may have been in Antioch when Paul wrote a letter to the church in Galatia.
 - Paul had heard that some false teachers in Galatia were teaching that in order to be saved, Christians must also obey the laws that God gave to Moses and the Jews.
 - Therefore, Paul wrote to the Christians in Galatia to

remind them that belief in Christ alone can save us, and warned them not to follow any different teaching.

-This letter is called Galatians and is a part of the New Testament.

Let's read Acts 15:35-36

35-But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.

36-Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing."

-After teaching in Antioch, Paul wanted to go back and visit the churches from their first missionary journey.

-Why did Paul want to visit the new churches that God had begun?

-Because it is important not to abandon new believers.

-Because new believers need teaching, guidance, and encouragement.

-Should a mother leave her newborn baby alone?

-No. A mother should feed and protect her baby,

-New believers are just like newborn babies.

-The work of caring for new believers is very important in the Church.

-New believers need much care, help, and encouragement so they will grow in their belief in God.

-New believers need the teaching and guidance of those who are older in the Lord so they will grow in their belief in God.

-How do new believers grow in their belief in God?

-By hearing and understanding the Word of God.

-Not just new believers, but all believers need to be continually taught, guided, and encouraged.

-Although we should all help in this work, who has the main responsibility to teach, guide, and encourage?

-The elders of the church.

-Here is the work of an elder of the church:

-Teach the Word of God.

-Lead the worship services.

-Pray for the needs of the people.

-Visit people in their homes to encourage them.

-Help people in their marriages.

-Help parents to teach their children the Word of God.

-The work of encouraging new believers will also be important when people are saved through your witness in other areas.

-While we are not able to teach the Gospel to all people, we do need to teach those who have believed in Jesus through our witness.

-When Paul and Barnabas were ready to leave for their second missionary journey, something happened.

Let's read Acts 15:37-38

37-Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,

38-but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

-For Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey, a young man named Mark went with them.

-Yet when Paul and Barnabas arrived in Pamphylia, Mark left them.

-Because Mark did not continue with them, Paul felt that Mark had deserted them, and did not want to take him for the second missionary journey.

-But Barnabas insisted that Mark should go.

-What happened?

Let's read Acts 15:39

39-[Paul and Barnabas] had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,

-It is sad that Paul and Barnabas argued about Mark.

-Why should the disagreement of Paul and Barnabas be a warning to us?

-Because Satan is always trying to divide believers in Christ.

-We all must be careful because Satan still tries to use differences and problems to divide believers.

-It is also important that we continue the work of our God to reach the lost for Christ.

-After Barnabas took Mark and left for Cyprus, who did Paul choose to go with him?

Let's read Acts 15:40

40-But Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

-Paul chose Silas, one of the leaders of the church in Jerusalem, and they started off on Paul's second missionary journey.

Let's read Acts 15:41

41-[Paul and Silas] went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

-This is the first time that these churches in Syria and Cilicia have been spoken of in the book of Acts.

-It is believed that these churches were begun when Paul left Jerusalem, and returned to his home in Tarsus.

-After a time, Paul and Silas came to Derbe, and then to Lystra.

Let's read Acts 16:1-3

1-He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek.

2-The brothers 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.

-Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised?

-Did Paul think that Timothy must be circumcised to be accepted by God?

-No.

-Because Timothy was already a believer in Christ, he was not circumcised to be accepted by God.

-Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised?

-For Timothy to help Paul in preaching the Gospel to the Jews first, he would have to be circumcised.

-Otherwise, the Jews would not listen to Paul and Timothy.

-We can do nothing to be saved; Christ alone saves us.

-At the same time, Christians should understand that some things that we do or do not do may affect others so that they will not listen to the Gospel.

-What does Paul having Timothy circumcised teach us?

-We should help others to listen to the Gospel as long as we are not disobeying God.

-After Paul, Silas, and Timothy left Derbe and Lystra, they visited the other churches in that area.

Let's read Acts 16:4-5

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.

-After they had visited all the churches, they planned to preach the Gospel to people in countries nearby.

-There were many people in Asia who had not heard the Gospel so that is where Paul wanted to preach.

-But this was not God's will at that time.

Let's read Acts 16:6-8

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.

-Who told Paul that he was not to preach in Asia and Bithynia?

-God the Holy Spirit.

-Upon whom must we depend for guidance in all of our work for the Lord?

-God the Holy Spirit.

-God the Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to live in all believers to help them teach the Gospel to the whole world.

-Although Jesus commanded us to teach everyone everywhere, we must depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us to the right places and the right people at the right time.

-Therefore, we must pray and depend on the Holy Spirit in all we do.

-If we do not depend on the Holy Spirit, then we will be working according to our own wisdom and not God's.

-Should we just sit down and do nothing while we wait for the Holy Spirit to show us where to go?

-No.

-Did Paul, Silas, and Timothy do that?

-No.

-They planned to preach in Asia, but the Holy Spirit told them not to.

-They planned to preach in Bithynia, but again the Holy Spirit told them not to.

-We must teach the Gospel to everyone in the world, but we must also depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us according to His will.

-Why did the Lord stop Paul from going to these places?

-Did God not love the people of Asia and Bithynia?

-Yes. God loves all people.

-Later, other Christians went to Asia and Bithynia to teach about Jesus.

-The Bible does not tell us why God told them not to go to Asia and Bithynia.

-Many times, God does not give a reason for that which He does.

-Because God is perfect, however, we know that all of His ways are perfect.

-We must believe in God's ways even though we may not understand completely.

-Because Paul, Silas, and Timothy were depending on God, here is how God guided them:

Let's read Acts 16:9

9-During the night Paul had a vision of a man of

Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

-How did Paul know that he was to go to Macedonia?

-God gave him a vision of a man of Macedonia saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

-Although the Lord gave Paul a vision at this time, does this mean that God always guided Paul in this way?

-No.

-Will God always give us a vision for the places He wants us to go?

-No.

-How does God the Holy Spirit normally guide us?

-First, He speaks to us through His Word.

-Second, He gives us a desire in our hearts to do something.

-Third, He gives us peace in our minds and hearts to know that we are doing what He wants us to do.

-What do you think Paul did after He saw the vision of the Macedonian man calling for help?

-They boarded a ship to go to Macedonia.

Let's read Acts 16:10-11

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.

11-From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis.

-Do you remember that God used a doctor named Luke to write this book of the Bible, the Acts of the Apostles?

-Luke joined Paul, Silas, and Timothy in Troas and traveled with them to Philippi.

Let's read Acts 16:12

12-From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

-In Philippi, there was no synagogue.

-If there was a synagogue, Paul would have started teaching there, as was his custom.

-But they found some Jewish women who were praying near the river and told them the Savior had come.

Let's read Acts 16:13-15

13-On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

14-One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

15-When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

-In the beginning, the work went well at Philippi, but then, something happened that caused much trouble.

Let's read Acts 16:16-18

16-Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

17-This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

18-She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

-Were Satan and his demons happy when Paul showed the people that Jesus was more powerful?

-No.

-And men who had made money from the girl who was demon possessed were also very angry.

Let's read Acts 16:19-24

19-When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.

20-They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar

21-by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

22-The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten.

23-After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.

24-Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

-Why were Paul and Silas thrown into prison?

-Because God cast a demon out of a girl.

-Because they were serving the Lord.

-When we are serving the Lord and something bad happens, it is easy to doubt the love and wisdom of God.

-Paul and Silas were severely whipped.

-They could have complained and thought that God abandoned them.

-What did Paul and Silas do?

Let's read Acts 16:25

25-About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns [praises] to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

-Did Paul and Silas complain against God?

-No.

-What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight in prison?

-They were singing praises to God.

-Why were they singing praises to God?

-Because they were thankful to be able to serve God.

-Because they were thankful to be able to suffer for God.

-Because they were thankful for God's grace and goodness in their lives.

-Because they believed that God had a good purpose for allowing them to suffer.

-God always has a good reason for everything that He allows to happen to His children.

-Sometimes we will see the reason, but many times we will not.

-We will have to wait until we get to Heaven to find out the full reason.

-But even if we don't understand, God wants us:

-To trust Him.

-To believe the promises He has given us in His Word.

-To thank Him for His love and care for us.

-God has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

-What did God do for Paul and Silas at midnight?

-He sent an earthquake which shook the prison, threw open the doors, and broke off the chains of the prisoners.

Let's read Acts 16:26-27

26-Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains

came loose.

27-The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.

-The jailer was going to kill himself because if the prisoners escaped, he would be killed.

-But Paul called out and stopped him.

Let's read Acts 16:28

28-But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

-Even though the jailer had put Paul and Silas in prison, Paul and Silas still loved this man.

-God wants us to love people even if they hurt us for teaching about Jesus.

-Do you remember what Jesus prayed when he was nailed to the cross by His enemies?

-Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

-What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas when he learned that none of the prisoners had escaped?

Let's read Acts 16:29-30

29-The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.

30-He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

-What answer would you give this man?

-Would you tell him to go to church?

-Would you tell him to get baptized?

-Would you tell him just to be good?

-What did Paul and Silas answer the jailer?

Let's read Acts 16:31

31-They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

-Then, Paul continued to teach the jailer and all who were in his house.

Let's read Acts 16:32

32-Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

-We should not give only short answers, and hope that the people understand.

-Paul did not just give a short answer, but carefully explained the Word of God to this man and to all who lived in his house.

-What were the results?

Let's read Acts 16:33-34

33-At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

34-The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

-Did the jailer believe in Christ?

-Yes, the jailer and all those living in his house believed.

-What happened to Paul and Silas after this?

Let's read Acts 16:35 & 40

35-When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men."

40-After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.

-In our next lesson, we will learn where Paul and Silas went when they left Philippi.