SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 16

Come Over to Macedonia and Help Us

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 16:31

“They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.””

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 16

Acts 16 is a chapter of doors — doors God shut, a heart He opened, and prison doors shaken wide at midnight. This week, wherever you feel locked in, let Jesus show you that He still opens and shuts, and that the answer to "What must I do to be saved?" has never changed.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

A Good Report

READ · ACTS 16:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What do we learn about Timothy's family, and what did the brethren in Lystra and Iconium say about him (16:1–2)?

REFLECT

Timothy "was well spoken of by the brethren" in two towns (16:2). If the men who see you every day were asked about your walk with Christ, what would they honestly say?

REFLECT

Paul circumcised Timothy "because of the Jews who were in those parts" (16:3) — not to be saved, but so the gospel could get a hearing. What could you give up so that someone will listen to you about Jesus?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask one man you trust: "Where do you see God growing me, and where do you see me struggling?" Listen without defending yourself.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 16:31)

DAY 2 OF 5

Closed Doors, Open Call

READ · ACTS 16:6–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where were Paul and his team forbidden to go, who stopped them, and what did Paul see in the night at Troas (16:6–9)?

REFLECT

“The Spirit of Jesus did not permit them” (16:7). What door has God shut in your life — a plan, a job, a relationship, a release date — and how have you responded to that “no”?

REFLECT

The man of Macedonia said, “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (16:9). Who around you is quietly asking for help, and how could you bring him the gospel?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God out loud today for one closed door, and ask Him where He is calling you instead.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 16:31)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Lord Opened Her Heart

READ · ACTS 16:11–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where did Paul find Lydia, what kind of work did she do, and who opened her heart (16:13–14)?

REFLECT

"The Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul" (16:14). Whose heart are you praying for God to open — and are you also willing to speak to him?

REFLECT

Lydia's first act as a believer was to open her home: "come into my house and stay" (16:15). How could your home, your cell, your table or your truck become a place where God's people are welcome?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write the name of one man whose heart you want God to open, and pray for him by name every morning this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 16:31)

DAY 4 OF 5

Freed, Then Beaten

READ · ACTS 16:16–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was the slave-girl's spirit making for her masters, what did Paul command, and what happened to Paul and Silas afterward (16:16–24)?

REFLECT

Her masters were angry because "their hope of profit was gone" (16:19). Where have you used people for what they could give you — money, comfort, status — instead of seeing them as souls Jesus wants to free?

REFLECT

Paul and Silas did the right thing and ended up beaten and in the stocks (16:22–24). How do you handle it when obeying God makes your life harder, not easier?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one kind thing today for someone who can give you nothing back.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 16:31)

DAY 5 OF 5

Songs at Midnight

READ · ACTS 16:25–40

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight, what did the jailer ask, and what was the answer (16:25, 30–31)?

REFLECT

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them” (16:25). What is your midnight right now, and who is watching how you face it?

REFLECT

The same man who “fastened their feet in the stocks” (16:24) later “washed their wounds” (16:33). What change has Jesus made in your hands — in what you used to do and what you do now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tonight, before you sleep, pray and sing (or read aloud) one psalm of praise, even if your circumstances have not changed.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 16:31)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Lydia, the slave-girl and the jailer were as different as three people could be (16:14–34). Who are the "unlikely" people in our town or facility that Jesus might be reaching next, and how can we be part of it?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The jailer asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" and was told, "Believe in the Lord Jesus" (16:30–31). Why do we so often make the answer more complicated than that?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Paul refused to sneak out of Philippi and insisted the magistrates come themselves (16:37). When should a Christian stand on his rights, and when should he lay them down?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You open and shut doors, so tonight in my own midnight I choose to praise You and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 16:31

“They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.””