



Right Place... Right Time!

GROWTH GUIDE MAY 25, 2025

*6th Sunday of Easter
Scripture: Acts 16:9-15*

AUTHOR

Luke, a Gentile, Greek, doctor, close friend and companion of the Apostle Paul. Luke was a historian who put great emphasis on dates and details. He wrote Acts as a sequel to the Gospel of Luke between A.D. 63 and 70. His purpose in writing was to give an accurate account of the birth and growth of the Christian church. The book of Acts begins where the Gospels left off and reports the actions of the disciples and the work of the Holy Spirit.

CONTEXT

At this point, Acts focuses on the ministry to the Gentiles and the spread of the church around the world. Paul is on his 2nd missionary journey along with Silas and now Timothy, a young disciple. The churches were growing larger every day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before we read today's scripture passage, read Acts 16:6-8. How did Paul and company decide on their travel plans?
2. The Book of Acts focuses on the movement of the Holy Spirit. Have you felt led by the Holy Spirit to act or not act, before? Maybe you felt like a door opened or closed for you? Did you find obedience and trust in the Spirit's leading to be easy or sacrificial?
3. Read Acts 16:9-15. Describe Paul's vision. In verse 10, the author of this book, Luke, joins the others as they leave for Macedonia. They ended up in Philippi. What do you know about this key city?

4. On the Sabbath, they went outside the city to a riverbank where they heard a prayer meeting was taking place. What was unusual about the group that gathered there? Did this prevent Paul from speaking to them?
5. Who is Lydia? Though she was wealthy and a merchant, Lydia knew something was missing in her life. We can be rich in money and possessions but be poor spiritually. Have you ever experienced a thirst for knowledge? What quenches or has quenched your spiritual thirst?
6. Who led Lydia to accept Paul's message?
7. How do you or how might you ask the Holy Spirit for discernment or guidance in making a decision?
8. Lydia was very hospitable, offering the men a place to stay in her home. Hospitality is a gift. How are you offering hospitality in your home? How does our church offer hospitality and what impact does it have on those who experience it?
9. What can we learn from Paul's willingness to share the Good News with a group of women and Lydia's response? Are there people who you hesitate to share the Good News with?
10. Do you see signs of the Holy Spirit moving in the church universal? In Mount Tabor UMC?

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