



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, May 4, 2025

ACTS: CHANGED LIVES

Closed Doors, Open Heart – Acts 16:1-15

Read/Reflect

1. What do verses 6 and 7 tell us about God's guidance in Paul's missionary journey? What might this tell us about God's guidance in our lives and ministry?
2. What is significant about Paul's vision of the man from Macedonia? How might this have confirmed their direction?
3. Who are the "we" in v.10? How do they respond to Paul's vision? What can we learn from their response?
4. What stands out to you about Lydia? What do you think it means that "the Lord opened her heart" to respond to Paul's message?

Explore

1. How can we better listen for the Holy Spirit's direction in our own lives and in the ministries that we are involved?
2. Have you experienced God closing one door and opening another? Share with the group your experience.
3. What does this passage teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in shaping the direction of missions and evangelism?
4. Based on Paul and his companions' actions in this passage, what are some practical ways we can discern God's will today, especially when we face closed doors or unclear paths?
5. What does Lydia's story show us about the relationship between human responsibility (v.13) and God's work (v.14) in evangelism and conversion?

Pray/Practice

- What is the one take-away from this study that you could begin to live out this week?
- Who might be the "Lydia"s in your life — those who may be spiritually open and ready for the gospel? What practical steps can you take this week to share the gospel with them?
- Lydia's actions following her baptism was an act of hospitality. In what ways can your home or resources be used for kingdom purposes like Lydia's was?
- Take a few minutes each day to pray for healthy unity in your life, relationships and at New Life Church. Pay attention to the Spirit's prompts as to how you might help make that happen.