

ACTS TO REVELATION

Drive Thru History | The World of the First Christians

This Week

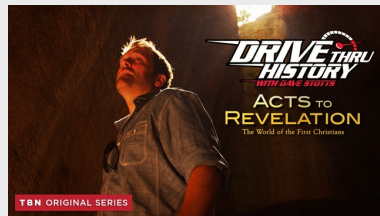
Acts 16:11-17:9, Philippians, 1&2 Thessalonians

More Resources

In Acts 16, a young woman is set free from a life of slavery through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Trafficked women and girls are being liberated through the ministry of **Agape International Missions** (AIM) in Cambodia. Here is one young woman's story. Click [HERE](#).



Learn more about AIM (a First Prez global mission partner) by clicking [HERE](#) to explore their website.



TO REVIEW COURSE VIDEOS, please click [HERE](#)

Week 9 Preview

Final Week (Part 1):
Acts 17:10-34



The Second Journey Continues: Philippi & Thessalonica

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Which part of this week's reading and video caught your attention the most? What insights did you glean? What questions do you have? Is God speaking to you about a situation in your own life through these Scriptures? What are you learning about God?

THREE CHANGED LIVES

Here's an overview of what happened when Paul, Silas and their companions planted a church in Philippi. Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, tells three strategically chosen stories to illustrate how the gospel can transform people's lives. Certainly more stories could have been told but Luke picked these three stories to make some very important points. He first tells the story of how a smart, savvy business woman by the name of Lydia became a follower of Jesus. Luke then tells the story of a female slave, who had been exploited by her owners for financial gain, was liberated from an oppressive spirit. And finally, he tells us what happened to a person who was, most likely, a gritty military man who was living out his retirement in charge of the city jail. He, too, said, "Yes," to Jesus. Let's explore each story.

LYDIA (Acts 16:11-15)

- What do we know about Lydia from these verses?
- The vision Paul had in Asia Minor was off a man who invited him to come over to Macedonia. How surprising do you think it was for Paul and his friends to discover it was actually a woman God wanted them to meet?
- This requires some speculation on our part but what do you think Lydia needed to hear in order to commit her life to Jesus?

Small Group Prayer Requests

To help you pray for one another during the week, please take notes on the requests that are shared. Please remember that everything people talk about in your group is confidential.

Notes from the Video and Discussion

What insights, questions, challenges, encouragements are you taking with you? Record your thoughts and any action steps you intend to take in the space below.

- How did she respond to Jesus and how did Paul and his team respond to her?

UNNAMED FEMALE SLAVE (Acts 16:16-24)

- It is estimated that there are at least 40 million people in the world today who are living as slaves. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. How do you explain the capacity for one human being to use and abuse others for their own financial benefit?
- What finally motivated Paul to command the spirit to leave this woman?
- What do you think she needed from Jesus?
- What accusations are hurled against Paul and his team by the slave owners? How do their accusations and the response of many of the people in Philippi unmask the bankrupt character of their culture?
- How do you understand the relationship between economics and the gospel?
- It was certainly God's will that this woman be liberated from this oppression. What impact did doing God's will have on Paul and his companions?

THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER (Acts 16:25-40)

- How do Paul and Silas respond to their imprisonment? How does God use this terrible development in their lives and an earthquake, to draw the jailer to Jesus?
- What do you think it took for the Philippians jailer to say, "Yes," to Christ? How did the actions of Paul and Silas show him something about following Jesus?
- Paul insists that the authorities take specific actions before they will leave the city. How do you react to their demands in verses 35-40?
- All three of these people helped form the foundation of the Philippian church. What does that tell you about God's vision for the church of Jesus Christ? What do we need to do to become a church that even more reflects the heart of Christ?

MAKING TROUBLE ALL OVER THE WORLD (Acts 17:1-9)

- In Acts 17:6, the people who followed Paul and his team from Philippi to Thessalonica complained to the authorities there, "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here..." By simply proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus, we can sometimes stir up trouble – hopefully good trouble. How do you feel about being a maker of trouble for the kingdom of God? What might that look like in your own life?
- The possibility always exists that we will fail to recognize the ways that our opinions and views uncritically include other worldviews that are actually inconsistent with the gospel. What do you do to make sure that the kind of trouble you're stirring up is indeed the good trouble created by the in-breaking of God's kingdom?
- Share prayer request and pray for one another.