

THE ACTS OF JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

6

Acts 15:36-18:22

Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Introduction

Paul's second journey is the most thoroughly documented of Paul's missionary journeys. Acts 15:36 through Acts 18:22 offers a detailed, city-by-city account of Paul's travels.

As we read the account of what happened in different places, we take note of some of the techniques Paul used to share the gospel. We can see the challenges he encountered, as the seed of the word fell on different types of soil. We end up marveling at the powerful grace of God that won the hearts of believers and ended up so thoroughly transforming Greek and Roman culture.



Read Acts 15:36-41. What was the source of the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas? How did they resolve their differences?

Discuss: Does loving one another mean that Christians will always get along? Explain your answer.

Read Acts 16:1-10. Describe Timothy's background and parentage.

Why did Paul circumcise Timothy before continuing the journey with him? (v. 3)

What motivated the apostles to go from Troas across the sea to Macedonia? (v. 9, 10)

Work in groups of 3-6. Select one of the sections below. Read the scripture reference, and answer the questions associated with it. If you finish early you may choose an additional section.

Section One: Philippi – Acts 16:11-40

Who was the first documented convert to Christianity on European soil?

How did the apostles get themselves into trouble in Philippi?

Describe the circumstances that Paul and Silas found themselves in after they were arrested.

What was the jailer going to do? What question did he ask?

How was the jailer's life changed that night?

Discuss: What is your impression of Paul and Silas after the events in Philippi?

Section Two: Thessalonica – Acts 17:1-9

What was Paul's evangelism approach again in Thessalonica?

How long did Paul have to continue preaching?

Discuss: Why would the Jews become jealous at the apostles' preaching?

Section Three: Berea – Acts 17:10-15

What noble characteristic distinguished the Bereans from the Thessalonians?

Describe the makeup of the church in Berea.

Discuss: Why was it significant that the church in Berea included prominent men and women?

Discuss: How can we encourage more in our congregation to be like the Bereans?

Section Four: Athens – Acts 17:16-34

What troubling phenomenon did Paul find in Athens?

How did Paul use this phenomenon as a springboard for preaching the gospel?

What mindset did the Athenians have concerning new philosophies?

For the Athenians, what was the “deal breaker” in Paul’s message?

Discuss: Relate a situation you’ve encountered in which you’ve used the circumstances of the moment as a segue into sharing the good news about Jesus.



Section Five: Corinth – Acts 18:1-17

Who were Aquila and Priscilla? What did they have in common with Paul?

What was the tipping point that led Paul to go primarily to the Gentiles?

How did the Lord encourage Paul?

How long did the apostles remain in Corinth?

Take note of Gallio’s assessment of the charges against the apostles. Why was this decision significant for the Christian church?

Acts 18:18-22 completes the cycle of the second missionary journey. The vow that caused Paul to shave his head in Cenchrea (v. 18) may have been a Nazirite vow (similar to Sampson or John the Baptist, but temporary).

Scripture to treasure

Memorize Acts 16:31

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