



# Small Group Study Guide for May 22, 2022

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** The conversion of Lydia shows us that the Lord is ultimately in control, even as He calls us to speak about Him to let the Spirit do His work. May the Lord fill our hearts and our homes with His grace, truth, and love in the Spirit!

## **Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. Where do you hope to see God working in your life and the life of your family this summer?
2. How often do you invite the Lord into your daily life Monday – Saturday, and what does that look like for you?

## **In the Word: Read Acts 16:9-15**

3. Let's look at a little more context. Read **Acts 16:6-8**. How was the Lord intervening in Paul's travel plans? (and why does it say "we"?)
4. Jesus gave Paul a vision during the night of a man from Macedonia standing and begging him for help. Look carefully and note Paul's conclusion and response (**vs. 10**)
5. Philippi was a Roman colony with special imperial privileges, and many Roman citizens and retired military leaders. There were not many Jews living there, since there was no synagogue. A synagogue required at least 10 men to organize it. If there was no synagogue, believers would gather near a water source for prayer. This is where Paul and his companions went first and began speaking of Jesus. Look at the description and steps of the process in **verse 14-15**. How did Lydia become a disciple? (think of Jesus' commission in **Matthew 28:19-20**)
6. Paul had a number of faith adventures in Philippi. Briefly skim over the events of **16:16-40**, and note the mention of Lydia again in **verse 40**.

### Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

7. We may not hear an audible voice, but have you experienced God “intervening in your itinerary” and prompting you to change your plans for the way He wanted you to go?
  
8. Romans 10:17 says, “**Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.**” The Holy Spirit uses the words and message of Jesus to create and sustain faith in people’s hearts. How did this play out in Lydia’s life, and how do you see it playing out in the lives of others around you?
  
9. This is another passage that says someone’s “whole household” was baptized. See **Acts 16:33** for the same words about the jailer, and verse 34 for his response to the Gospel which was similar to Lydia’s. How are the phrases “their household was baptized” related to our practice of infant baptism? (for an even stronger Biblical image, see **Colossians 2:11-12**)
  
10. If we think that someone’s conversion is up to us, we can become very frustrated or feel a lot of pressure. What words or phrases in this passage assure us that it is the Lord who is ultimately in charge of someone’s conversion and not us? Why is that a comfort to us sometimes, and other times difficult to accept?

*Bonus Question:* What are your small group plans for the summer?

**Prayer:** Share the names of family members that you are praying for, and ask that the Lord would open their hearts to the Gospel. Also ask for the courage to speak about Jesus to others, so that faith can come by hearing the message. Ask God to give us the words, and then the patience to let His Spirit do its work.

**Next Week:** Jesus’ ascension to heaven means that He can be with all of us, always, to the very end of the age. The Easter Season is concluded, and so we extinguish the Christ candle next to the altar, living by faith in Jesus’ presence with us in Word and Sacrament.