

Bible Study & Discussion

For congregations considering shared ministry

Acts 2:43-47 Life among the Believers

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Three questions of the Text:

- What is God doing?
- What do the people of faith do in response?
- What is the result?

Small Group Discussion

- What is God doing in your congregation?
- What is God doing in your community?
- What is one concern you have?
- What is one hope you have?

ACTS 16

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

Small Group Discussion

- What is God doing in this story?
- How to God's people respond to what God is doing?
- How to They respond to not being able to do what they planned to do?
- What is the result of their response to God's changing their plans?
- What are sometimes where you had well intentioned plans you just couldn't make it happen?
- What are the times where you felt God was calling you in a completely different direction than you were expecting?
- What do you see God doing in your congregations?
- What do you see God doing in your community?
- Where do you see God giving up old plans to try something new?
- What might be the result if you were to give up old plans and try something new?