



Next Week's Life Group: John 15:1-17

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by*, and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect and grow with God and with others through relationships; growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus. Life Groups are loving, safe and interactive; a place where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others to inspire a culture of discipleship as we do life together. *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11*



HOLY SPIRIT

APR 28-29, WEEK 2

LIFE
GROUPS
GUIDE

Holy Spirit

“And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them .” Acts 16:10

Getting Started: Share about a time when you were lost.

Context: The missionary journeys of Paul reveal an extraordinary combination of strategic planning and sensitivity to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in working out the details of the main goal; spreading the good news of Jesus throughout the surrounding “land of the Gentiles”. In Acts 16 Paul the apostle had embarked on his second missionary journey accompanied by Silas. In Derbe, they added a young disciple named Timothy to their team. As Paul and his new companion Timothy began their journey through Galatia and Phrygia, they came to a pivotal moment in the spread of the gospel. Having revisited churches planted by himself and Barnabas on their first journey, Paul had evidently planned to visit the coastal city of Ephesus, but he was “forbidden by the Spirit” from entering Asia. Instead they continued on to Troas, another coastal city, where they met and were joined by Luke, the gospel writer and author of Acts. While in Troas, Paul discerned the voice of the Spirit in a vision at night; a man was beseeching him to come to Macedonia, modern day Greece to help them. Because of Paul’s listening heart and obedience, he was able to respond to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Because of Paul’s obedience, the gospel went westward into Macedonia; and ultimately Europe and the Western world were evangelized. A believer’s response to the call of God is never a trivial thing. “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions . . .” Acts 2:17



Story/Passage: Acts 16:6-15

The Macedonian Call

Head Level

These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.



- What was Paul’s initial plan for travel? Why did he decide not to go into Bithynia?
- How did the Holy Spirit share His plans with Paul?
- What were some results of his willingness to be redirected by the Spirit into Macedonia?

Heart Level

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.



- How do you think Paul discerned the Holy Spirit’s direction in this situation? (i.e. prayer, impression, gut feeling, rationale?)
- If Jesus told us to preach the gospel to ALL nations, then why does he give specific directions for Paul to not enter Bithynia?
- What does this encounter reveal to you about the Holy Spirit’s desire to be your counselor? Does he still speak today in the same way he did with Paul?

Hands Level

These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.



- Share an experience where the Holy Spirit gave you very clear direction. How did you know it was him and not your own thoughts?
- What are some ways you can learn to hear and trust the Holy Spirit’s voice in your life this week?