



## **WnL CONNECT Groups**

### **Calling Out the Called**

Acts 16:1-5

#### **MAIN POINT**

God uses all kinds of people and connects them with like-minded partners for the purpose of fulfilling His mission.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

- What famous person, living or dead, do you wish you could spend a day with and why?
- Who is one person in your life who has had a significant impact on you and why?

Today's study from Acts 16:1-5 focuses on Timothy's joining Paul's missionary team. By all accounts, Timothy was pretty ordinary. He is one of many biblical examples showing how God calls and uses ordinary people to do the work of ministry. Paul's addition of Timothy to his team also reminds us of the importance of finding like-minded partners with whom we can partner to fulfil God's mission.

#### **UNDERSTANDING**

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**Have a volunteer read Acts 16:1-2.**

- What do we learn about Timothy from verses 1-2?
- Why do you think the writer of Acts described Timothy's family background (16:1)?



Luke described Timothy first as a disciple, which means that Timothy either came to faith in Christ under Paul's previous ministry in Lystra (Acts 14) or was led to Christ, perhaps by family members, after Paul left Lystra. Being the son of a blended marriage, circumcision would become an issue when Timothy joined Paul's missionary team (v. 3).

- What reputation did Timothy have among Christians (16:2)?
- How did Timothy's qualities and background make him an asset to the missionary team?
- Have a volunteer read Acts 16:3.
- Why do you think Paul wanted Timothy to be circumcised?
- What missional lessons do we learn from Paul's decision to have Timothy circumcised?
- What are some ways we can gain greater credibility among unbelievers so that we might be more effective in sharing the gospel with them?

**Have a volunteer read Acts 16:4.**

- What did Paul and his team do as they travelled from town to town?
- Why was it important for the church leaders to share the Jerusalem Council letter?

Delivering the letter from the Jerusalem Council in the cities they visited reassured the Gentile believers and removed additional barriers to the gospel. The missionaries were not just delivering an edict but helping the churches to grow in their faith and to continue reaching the unbelievers around them. The act of delivering the Jerusalem Council's message was a form of discipleship.

**Have a volunteer read Acts 16:5.**

- What was the two-fold outcome of the missionary team's visits?
- What is our obligation to unbelievers and what is our obligation to believers?

Our obligation to unbelievers is to share the gospel. Only the good news that Jesus saves can change lives; we are called to share this life-changing hope. Our ministry to believers is to strengthen their faith.

- What is the relationship between evangelism and discipleship? Can you have one without the other? Explain. How do you see our church doing both?

**APPLICATION**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.



- How would you describe your calling and life purpose? What are you doing that reflects your God-given purpose?
- What are some personal barriers you need to remove in order to more effectively share the gospel with unbelievers?
- How can you partner with others to share the gospel with unbelievers and to strengthen other believers?

## **PRAYER**

As you lead the group in prayer, give thanks to God that He chooses to use ordinary people to carry out His mission in the world. Pray that group members would make themselves available to Him.

