

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 1, 2007

Passage: Acts 15:36-16:9

Memory Passage: 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 15:32-35.** What did Silas and Judas do during the days they spent in Antioch? By what means were they exhorting and strengthening the disciples there?
- (b) What were Paul and Barnabas doing during their time in Antioch? What does this show us about the priority of their ministry (Acts 11:26)?
- (c) Were they the only ones doing the teaching (Acts 15:35; Acts 13:1)? What would be some of the benefits of having multiple teachers teaching the church?
- (d) What is the goal of this ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12; Colossians 1:28)? How do people become mature in Christ? How did Peter describe the role of God's Word in 1 Peter 2:2?
- (e) Read Romans 12:1-2. How are people transformed to become "living sacrifices"?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 15:32-35 and Colossians 1:28. Talk about the role of God's Word in making disciples. Can a person grow in the Lord without growing in His Word? Explain why this is so essential. Thank God for giving you His Word so that you can grow in His grace and in His knowledge.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 15:36.** What was Paul's desire? What was Paul's heart (2 Corinthians 11:28; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18)?
- (b) Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20. What did Paul say was his great desire? What kept him from this?
- (c) What was his attitude toward the believers in Thessalonica? What did he call them (1 Thessalonians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 1:14; Philippians 4:1)?
- (d) How are they his joy, crown, and glory? Compare 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Revelation 3:11; 1 Peter 5:4.
- (e) Read 1 Corinthians 9:23-27. How did Paul conduct his life for the sake of the gospel? Why is this essential in discipleship (1 Corinthians 10:1)? What is the effect on the ministry of the Word when our lives don't reflect the gospel (1 Timothy 4:11-16)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 15:36 and 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20. What did Paul say was his "joy and crown?" What is yours? What (or who) are you investing your life in for the sake of God's kingdom? Why is our lifestyle important not only in evangelism but also in making disciples? Pray that you might gain a heart for seeing people grow to maturity in Christ.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 15:37-41.** What problem arose when Paul and Barnabas decided to return to the churches they had started?
- (b) What do we know about John Mark from the NT (Acts 12:12; 12:25; 13:5)? What was Paul's reason for not wanting to take John Mark (Acts 13:13)? What is required of a servant of God (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)? What was Paul's concern?
- (c) What did Barnabas want to do? Had he done anything like this before (Acts 4:36-37; Acts 9:26-28; Acts 11:26-27)? What seems to have been his priority in life?
- (d) What do 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15, Galatians 6:1-2 and Hebrews 12:12 encourage us to do with struggling believers?
- (e) What was Paul's attitude toward John Mark later in his life (Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11)? What does this tell us about the effect of Barnabas's ministry on John Mark? On Paul?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 15:37-41 and Galatians 6:1-2. How would you define encouragement? How should we reach out to those that others reject? How did Barnabas respond to both Paul (Acts 9) and John Mark (Acts 15)? Think of one person who could use some biblical encouragement. Pray that God might show you how to encourage them this week.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 15:39-41.** How is the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas described? What results from this?
- (b) What other disagreements among believers are found in the book of Acts (Acts 6:1-7; Acts 15:2-4)? How were these resolved?
- (c) What disagreement did Paul have with Peter and Barnabas in Antioch (Galatians 2:11-13)? What steps did he take to resolve it?
- (d) How should Christians respond when they have a sharp disagreement (Matthew 5:21-26)? What are we doing when we do not resolve our disagreements biblically (Ephesians 4:32)?
- (e) How should we handle "irresolvable" disagreements (1 Peter 4:8; Colossians 3:12-14; Romans 12:16-18)? How did God ultimately work out this disagreement for good?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 15:39-41 and Colossians 3:12-14. Do Christians agree on everything? What is one essential that we must all agree on? How should we respond to other areas of disagreement? Is there any unresolved problem that you have with another believer? What steps can you take to honor God? Pray that God's people might show His love to one another.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 16:1-5.** Who do Paul and Silas add to their missionary team in Lystra (probably not Derbe, Acts 20:4)? Who might have been instrumental in his conversion (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:1)?
- (b) What was his family situation? What gave Paul confidence that he could take Timothy with him (Acts 16:2; 1 Timothy 3:7)?
- (c) Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised? Why did he refuse to circumcise Titus (Galatians 2:3-6)? Read 1 Corinthians 9:18-23. What does this tell us about why Paul did this in one situation and not another?
- (d) *What* influenced Timothy for salvation and prepared him for ministry (2 Timothy 3:14-17)? *Who* influenced Timothy also (2 Timothy 1:5)?
- (e) What does this tell us about the importance of the Word of God in preparing servants of God? What does this tell us about the importance of godly examples (2 Timothy 2:20-22)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 16:1-5 and 2 Timothy 2:20-22. What does it take to be a servant of God? Why is knowledge of the Word of God so essential for God's servants? What indication is there in Acts 16:2 that Timothy was chosen by Paul not just for his knowledge of God's Word? What example does Paul use in 2 Timothy 2 to remind Timothy about how holiness affects usefulness? Pray that you might be a clean vessel useful to the Master in every way.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 15:36-16:9. Why did Paul desire to return to the churches they had started? How does this reveal a heart for people? Why didn't Paul want to take John Mark? Why did he take Timothy? What two things are a priority in someone being a servant of God? Pray for God's servants throughout the world that they may be faithful to His Word in their teachings and in their lives.

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Servants of the Gospel

“So let a man consider us as servants of Christ ...”