



**LC STUDY GUIDE: DONE IN SYNC WITH
THE “LIVING ON MISSION” SERMON SERIES**
The Passage – Acts 16:11-24
For LCs meeting 9.22.13–10.5.13

***Preface:** These LC studies will complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. These italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading and are not to be distributed to the entire group (it limits conversation). Not all these questions need to be used in your LC meeting. Best to consider this a head-start and customize these for your LC study.*

Study’s BIG Idea: The gospel brings healing and deliverance, and disrupts and trumps all earthly powers.

Acts 16:11-24 (NIV © 2011)

11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. 12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

19 When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. 20 They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21 by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

O – How do you think Paul might have felt when he arrived in Philippi and found no synagogue?

O – After reading Lydia's conversion, what can we learn from Paul's example about sharing our faith with people?

(Look for some mutual interest as opposed to cold calling, meet people where they are, look for where God is already working and join Him, when the time is right share the message, don't be afraid to call for a response)

I – What do Paul's actions suggest about his view of women?

I – What role did God play in Lydia's coming to faith?

(He directed her to these fellow seekers even in a pagan city, arranged for them to be there when Paul arrived, opened her heart to believe)

A – What questions are seeking people asking today?

O – What strikes you as interesting/peculiar about the healing of the slave girl?

I – Why does Luke put these stories back to back?

(Possibilities include illustrating the gospel at work in words and actions, two very different types of people transformed, and showing different responses of people coming to God's saving work.)

A – Why/how do we tend to "hold back" from speaking and acting on mission?

O – The slave owners were angry with Paul for losing the profit from the slave girl. What else do you see happening in this section of the text?

I – Why do you think Paul and Silas were singing in the middle of the night in their jail cell?

(It's likely the first time that Paul was stripped, beaten and jailed. They're not singing out of boredom; they're worshipping to give glory to God and get re-centered on mission.)

I – Paul and Silas have been ordered to be released. But then why do they wait in jail and insist on the city magistrates escorting them out?

(Paul and Silas were Roman citizens jailed without trial. The magistrates escorting them out was a very dramatic public apology announcing, "These men are in good standing.")

A – How have you seen the gospel heal, deliver and disrupt/trump the earthly powers?

Key: O – Observation. I – Interpretation. A – Application

- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your LIFE Community group. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
- b. Complement OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- e. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- f. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching,” rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.