

LESSON 9

LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

ACTS 15:36—18:23



REFLECT
on your life

1 Describe an ideal situation for sharing your faith in Christ. (Where would it happen? How would it be set up?)



READ
the passage

Read Acts 15:36—18:23, the Profiles of Silas and Aquila and Priscilla, and the following notes:

- ☐ 16:13, 14 ☐ 16:22–25 ☐ 17:1 ☐ 17:2, 3 ☐ 17:6 ☐ 17:22 ☐ 17:22ff
☐ 17:23 ☐ 17:30, 31 ☐ 17:32–34 ☐ 18:13

2 Why did Paul want to return to the towns where he and Barnabas had preached (15:36)?

3 What caused Paul and Silas to change their travel plans (16:6–10)?

4 Where did they witness for Christ in Philippi? Who responded to the gospel message (16:13–15, 22–31)?

5 Where did Paul and Silas preach and teach in Thessalonica? Who came to Christ in that city (17:1–4)?

6 Where did Paul preach in Athens? What was the response (17:16–34)?

7 In Corinth, what kind of people responded to the gospel (18:2–11)?

Because of a disagreement over John Mark, Paul and Barnabas decided to separate. Paul chose Silas and, with Timothy, began another missionary journey. Responding to a plea in a dream, they took the gospel to Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, and other Greek cities. Wherever they were—on a riverbank, in prison, in the synagogue, at a gathering of philosophers—Paul and Silas proclaimed the Good News. They used every forum to preach, seeing every situation as an opportunity to tell others about Christ. Every day God gives us opportunities to share our faith—with friends, at home, in school, and at work—through how we act and what we say. How have you used those God-given opportunities?



8 What regular opportunities for proclaiming the gospel exist in your community?

9 How have Christians taken advantage of those opportunities?



10 What gifts, talents, and resources do you have that God could use to spread his Word?

11 In what situations or relationships has God placed you where you could share your faith?

12 How might you prepare for the opportunities God will give you this week to share Christ?



13 If you have very little contact with unbelievers, how can you build more relationships with them?

A How did Paul and Barnabas’s split-up help the cause of Christ (15:39–41)? Describe a time when something seemed bad to you but turned out to be good.

B How did Paul pass his faith to the next generation? What are you doing to pass your faith to the next generation?

C How did Paul and Silas know where to preach the gospel (16:6–10)? How do you determine the course of your actions?

D Why did Paul and Silas pray and sing in prison (16:23–28)? What happened as a result (16:29–34)? How did Paul save the jailer’s life? How can you respond to misfortune?

E What kind of reputation were Paul and Silas developing as a result of their actions (15:36—18:22)? What is your reputation among unbelievers? What could you do to have a reputation more like Paul and Silas’s?

F What did the Bereans do after hearing Paul preach (17:11, 12)? In what ways are the Bereans a good example for us today?

G Why did Paul say that the men of Athens were “very religious” (17:22)? What did they find difficult to accept in Paul’s message (17:32)? What is the difference between being very religious and following Christ?

H What was Paul’s approach to sharing Christ in Athens (17:16–34)? What was his approach in the hall of Tyrannus (19:8–10)? How can you vary the way you share Christ with others?

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