

February 25, 2018
Acts 16:6-10

WHEN GOD CLOSES A DOOR

I. Introduction:

II. Open and Closed Doors in Acts 16:6-10

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.** ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, **but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.** ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, **“Come over to Macedonia and help us.”** ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

III. Four Lessons When God Closes A Door:

A. Remember: God Has A _____ For Your Life

¹¹ For I know the **plans** I have for you,” declares the LORD, **plans** to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans** to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

B. God Will Guide You If You _____ in Him.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and **he will direct your paths.**” Proverbs 3:5-6

C. Don't Be _____ By Closed Doors

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, **but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.** Acts 16:6-7

D. Be _____ As You Wait For God's Open Doors

⁸ **So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.** ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." Acts 16:8-10

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of February 26th
Acts 16:6-10

Open It

1. When was the last time you were disappointed?
2. How persistent are you in trying to get things to go your way?
3. *If you arranged a long vacation and you were suddenly required to cancel it for business, what would you do?

Explore It

4. Where did the journey westward from Iconium take Paul and his companions? (16:6)
5. Who directed the missionaries away from Asia? (16:6)
6. How were the travelers hindered from entering Bithynia? (16:7)
7. *How did God guide the missionaries in their travels? (16:6-7)
8. After leaving Mysia, where did the travelers go next? (16:8)
9. When did Paul experience the vision? (16:9)
10. What did Paul see in his vision? (16:9)
11. How did Paul and his companions interpret this vision? (16:10)
12. *What did the missionaries do after they understood what God wanted them to do? (16:10)
13. *When did Paul and his companions respond to God's instructions? (16:10)
14. How did the narrator of the story participate in Paul's travels? (16:10)

Get It

15. *How do you think Paul, Silas, and Timothy recognized the Holy Spirit's directions as they traveled around Asia Minor?

16. *How can we be receptive to the Holy Spirit's guidance?
17. What do you do when the Holy Spirit thwarts your plans?
18. Why do you think God has sometimes spoken to His people through visions and dreams?
19. How does God usually speak to His children?
20. How does God speak to you?
21. What does the example of Paul and his companions teach us about obedience to God?
22. With whom has God led you to share the gospel?

Apply It

23. How can you listen more closely to the Holy Spirit's direction in your life?
24. *What is one thing you can do to make yourself responsive to God and His will?