

Nov 15, 2015



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Witnessing isn't a job to be done but a life to be lived

**HYMN FOR THE WEEK:**  
Let us go forth, as called of God,  
Redeemed by Jesus' precious blood;  
His love to show, His life to live,  
His message speak, His mercy give. —Whittle

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him.*  
(Mark 3:13 NKJV)  
*(From "Our Daily Bread", Feb 21, 2014)*

**Series: THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COMES ALIVE**

UNIT: Spreading the Gospel

NEXT WEEK

**Making God Known**  
(Acts 17:1-4,10-12,22-25,28)

## Spreading the Word

Acts 16:1-5, 8-15

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson reviews how all of us as Christians should be active in some way in the **Spreading of the Word**. The **study's aim** is to recognize the importance of prayer in the worldwide spread of the gospel. The **study's application** is to be burdened to see a more rapid spread of the gospel.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

Many churches use the words Macedon or Macedonian in naming classes, ministries, or publications. The phrase Macedonian call has come to designate a summons to be a missionary. The idea comes from Acts 16:9, which is part of today's text. Some claim that the era of foreign missions is over. But mission opportunities definitely still exist, given that more than 4 billion people worldwide do not claim Christ as Savior! Although we should not expect to receive a call in a vision as the apostle Paul did, today's lesson will help us understand the heart and challenges of a person whose life was dedicated to cross-cultural evangelism. Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 16:1-18:22) was prefaced by his desire to revisit the churches he planted during his first journey (15:36). He needed to communicate the decision of the Jerusalem Council: Gentiles were not expected to keep the Jewish law in order to be part of the church. This expedition was almost blown apart at the outset when Paul and Barnabas had a tense disagreement over the advisability of taking along John Mark, a relative of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10). John Mark had abandoned them on the first journey (Acts 12:25; 13:5, 13), and Barnabas wanted to give him a second chance (15:37). But Paul would have none of it (15:38). Therefore, they divided into two teams: Barnabas and John Mark returned to the island of Cyprus (15:39), the home territory of Barnabas (4:36), while Paul recruited Silas, a respected church leader (15:22), to accompany him (15:40, 41). The year was about AD 52.

The Joshua Project identifies over 7,000 of the more than 16,000 people groups in the world today as "unreached." This means that less than 2 percent of their populations are evangelical Christians, or that less than 5 percent are Christians of any type. Missions experts contend that these unreached people groups will never be evangelized without intentional, strategic, cross-cultural missions efforts. Christians must be sent to them with the gospel. What other hope is there where no churches exist? But there are millions of unevangelized people within the "reached" groups as well. We need intentional outreach in both categories. There is no question that this is a mighty challenge! Successful cross-cultural evangelism requires dedicated missionaries having proper training and support. The work is sacrificial, causing hardships for families, hardships often unrecognized and unappreciated by supporting churches. Many churches today have turned inward, choosing to support only local ministries. These worthy organizations need support, that is true, but there are billions who remain without hope, without salvation. They are calling, "Come help us!" When we answer this Macedonian call with a resounding, "Yes, we will!" we bring eternal salvation to modern Lydias and their families. May we be bold in our faith and generous in our support of reaching the world's unreached.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### THE NEED FOR HELPERS (ACTS 16:1-3)

#### *Helpers who are believers (1-2)*

Believers who help because of being members of the Body (1 Cor 12:24-26)

Believers who help because of it is God who works in them (Phil 2:12-13)

Believers who help because of doing God's will (Matt 12:48-50)

Believers who help because of wanting to help those in need (Matt 25:40)

Believers who help because of the predestination of God (Rom 8:29)

#### *Helpers who are obedient (3)*

Obedience that keeps one focused on the right priority (Matt 16:24-26)

Obedience that helps one stand firm (1 Cor 15:58)

Obedience that has the motive of love (2 John 1:6)

Obedience that leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)

Obedience that comes from the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:2)

Obedience that is an obligation (Rom 8:12-14)

### THE NEED FOR ENCOURAGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING (ACTS 16:4-5)

#### *Encouragement through providing understanding (4)*

Understanding through the knowledge of God (2 Cor 4:6)

Understanding of the secrets of heaven (Matt 13:11-12)

Understanding that is hidden in Jesus (Col 2:2-3)

Understanding that comes from the mind of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:13-16)

Understanding that is taught by God (John 6:45)

Understanding through anointing (1 John 2:27)

#### *Strengthening through faith (5)*

Strengthen through faith by seeking others to pray for us (Luke 22:32)

Strengthen through faith through the encouragement of others (1 Thess 3:2)

Strengthen through faith by the testing of our faith (2 Cor 13:5)

Strengthen through faith by maturation (2 Peter 1:5-8)

Strengthen through faith by abiding in Jesus (John 15:5)

Strengthen through faith by enduring trials (James 1:2-4)

### THE NEED TO BE LEAD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (ACTS 16:8-15)

#### *Led through visions (8-10)*

Conviction through visions (Acts 10:11-15)

Visions through the power of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29)

God can visit us in our dreams (Gen 28:10-12)

God can visit us through visions (Num 12:6)

Attention can be obtained through visions (Acts 9:10)

#### *Led through prayer (11-13)*

Led through prayer because it guides into God's calling on one's life (Acts 13:1-3)

Led through prayer because it supplies wisdom (James 1:5)

Led through prayer to combat anxiousness (Phil 4:6)

Led through prayer so that we will not fall into temptation (Matt 26:41)

Led through prayer to obtain a mind that is clear and self-controlled (1 Peter 4:7)

#### *Led to fellowship with other believers (14-15)*

Fellowship through being concerned for each other (1 Cor 12:25-26)

Fellowship through being united with Jesus (Phil 2:1-4)

Fellowship through being one in Christ (Gal 3:26-28)

Fellowship through being of one body and calling (Eph 4:4-6)

Fellowship through love (Col 3:14)

Fellowship through living in harmony with one another (1 Peter 3:8)