August 30, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Class Leader:
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Life is tough for many people, and often a small gesture of practical kindness can encourage them and lift their spirits.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:
Heavenly Father, open my eyes to the needs of people around me. Give me the wisdom to know how to show kindness and care to them.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

(1 Peter 4:9-10 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", April 07, 2022)

Fall Series: Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

NEXT WEEK

Unit 1: From Nomadic Tribes to Settled People

Joshua Leads Courageously

Joshua 1:1-11

Lydia, the Generous Hostess
Acts 16:11-15, 40

Lesson Background and Introduction

Beginning in Acts 13:1, the book of Acts focuses on the missionary travels of the apostle Paul. The church in Antioch commissioned Paul and Barnabas to carry the gospel beyond that Syrian city to the regions of Cyprus (a large island), Pisidia, Pamphylia, and Galatia. We often refer to this as Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13:1-14:28).

On the next missionary journey (Acts 15:36-18:22), Paul and Silas visited the previous locations but also pushed farther west toward Roman Asia. 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). Therefore, they divided into two teams: Barnabas and John Mark returned to the island of Cyprus (Acts 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).

Paul then traveled to Lystra, where he met with Timothy and invited him to join the missionary journey (Acts 16:1-5). Paul and his companions then traveled through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia. They reached the port city of Troas, located at the northern end of the Aegean Sea, where Paul received a vision of an unknown man from Macedonia who invited the apostle to come to that region (16:8-10). It is at this point in Paul's second missionary journey that we arrive at today's lesson. The year is around AD 50, and it has been some 15 years since Paul's encounter with the resurrected Christ.

Key Verses: Acts 16:15

And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

A Generosity that Seeks God's Clear Directions (Acts 16:11-12)

Clear directions through being at the right place at the right time (11-12)

Being at the right place at the right time can bring healing (Acts 3:2-8)
Being at the right place at the right time can sometimes be accomplished through preparation (Matt 25:1-13)
Being at the right place at the right time should result in the praising of God (John 9:1-3)
Being at the right place at the right time is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit (Luke 2:25-31)

A Generosity that has a Compliant Heart (Acts 16:13-15, 40)

A compliant heart to pray (13)

Prayer that is continual (1 Thess 5:17)
Prayer for the spreading of the gospel (Eph 6:19)
Prayer in faith and the Holy Spirit (Jude 20)
Prayer that waits in expectation (Ps 5:3)
Prayer about everything with thanksgiving (Phil 4:6)
A heart that is devoted to prayer (Col 4:2)

A compliant heart to heed the things of God (14)

A heeding that leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)
A heeding that is learned (Heb 5:8)
A heeding that is in love (2 John 1:6)
A heeding that is better than sacrifices (1 Sam 15:22)
A heeding through putting God's words into practice (Matt 7:24-25)
A heeding through focusing on the eternal (2 Cor 4:16-18)
A heeding through living holy (1 Peter 1:14-16)

A compliant heart to be faithful (15)

Faithful because we have been given a trust (1 Cor 4:2)
Faithful even to the point of death (Rev 2:10)
Faithful to the truth to please God, not man (1 Thess 2:4)
Faithful to the truth to live a life worthy of God (Col 1:10)
Faithful to the truth so that God will consider us a faithful servant (Matt 25:21)
Without faithfulness, we cannot please God (Heb 11:6)

A compliant heart to be hospitable (40)

Hospitable by sharing (Rom 12:13)
Hospitable by entertaining strangers (Heb 13:2)
Hospitable by not forgetting to do good to others (Heb 13:16)
Hospitable by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and looking after the sick (Matt 25:35-40)
Hospitable by helping others as we have the ability (Acts 11:29)
Hospitable by using the gifts God has given us (Rom 12:5-8)