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# Part VI: Paul's Second Missionary Journey *(Acts 16-18)*

## Application Guide: Acts 16

### 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever been on a road trip? Which was your favorite and why?

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- b. Are you a homebody or a traveler? What do you like about being home or about traveling?

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### 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

**Picture it:** This passage is all about circumcision—do you even know what that is? Yikes! Not sure exactly why God chose tImagine there is no Disneyland. Imagine there are no water parks or roller coasters. Imagine a world with no movie theaters or rock stars to go see in concert. Imagine no planes, trains or automobiles. Imagine walking to school every day without an iPod or cell phone.

The Apostles didn't have to imagine this—it was their world! Most people back then didn't travel across the country, or even a few miles looking for fun times—it was just too difficult. Traveling was very slow and dusty. Everywhere people went it, was like going for a really long walk on a dirt trail. If you don't like backpacking or camping, you probably wouldn't have liked living back then.

So why do you think Paul and Silas spent so much time traveling? What do you think motivated them to walk from country to country, not always knowing where they were going, where they would stay or what they would eat? Why do you think they were willing to set out on journeys they knew could take them years to complete? Can you imagine your parents quitting their jobs, gathering your family together and heading out on a two-year trip, only taking the things you could carry with you on your backs? Today, jobless wanderers that walk around with all their belongings in a backpack are not always highly thought of!

The fact is that the Apostles were told by the Holy Spirit to take on huge tasks in order to help other people learn about Jesus. The Holy Spirit not only gave the Apostles the ability to perform miracles, He also sent them on long, tiring missions. Acts 16 says that the Holy Spirit prevented them from going to certain places, then gave them dreams that told them to go other places.

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Has the Holy Spirit ever impressed you to go somewhere or not to go somewhere? How do you think you would feel if He did? Do you think you would enjoy traveling more if you knew you were on a mission from God?

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**3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

- a. Think about all your favorite things to do. On what kind of mission do you think you would enjoy God sending you?
- b. What talents do you think God has given you? How do you think God would like you to use your talents for Him? Plan out a mission you could go on with some friends, right here in the town where you live.

**4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

- a. Pray and ask Jesus to give you a mission. Ask Him to start you off with something simple like praying for someone, giving someone a Christian book or a Bible, or going to help someone with a job they can't do for themselves.
- b. Ask your parents if God has ever sent them on a mission. Ask them what it was like. Ask them to pray that God will give *you* a mission.