

S.G. Study Guide: *To the End of the Earth.* Acts 16:11-15

Opening Thought: Can you think of and/or share a time when the Holy Spirit spoke to you with such clarity that you acted upon it immediately? Share as a group.

1. The radical reformation by way of the gospel. (Acts 16:13)

- Clearly there was no synagogue in Philippi. That said, women gathered outside the city gate. What does this say about their desire to worship Yahweh?
- Paul “sat down” and spoke to the women. Clearly, Paul was willing to teach the women. What does this say about his ministry and the gospel as a whole?
- Too often people attempt to compartmentalize the New Testament and segment the teachings of Jesus and Paul, as if they contrast. What is the motive for this? How does this minimize the role of the Holy Spirit? (See 2 Peter 1:16-21)
- From what we know about Paul, about Jewish tradition and even Greco-Roman culture, how radical and/or liberating was it that Paul taught the women in Philippi?

2. Hearing the gospel. (Acts 16:14)

- Read & discuss Romans 10:17 in light of “hearing” the gospel. If churches today are not rooted in the Words of Christ, how can we expect people to be saved? (Jn. 3:16)
- Lydia was a listener and a seeker. How often do people listen but not hear? Discuss the clear problems with this.
- How can we best understand hearing the gospel in light of God’s sovereign work of salvation? (Acts 16:14; 13:48)
- What is the clear response of hearing the truth of Christ? (John 10:27)

3. Being a doer of the word. (Acts 16:15)

- What are the 3 clear examples that Lydia was a doer of the word? How can we apply these to our own lives?
- How did Lydia model John 13:35? What does this look like in our own lives? How can we foster and protect our vision to build a community to reach a community?