**Bible Study Questions: READ Acts 16–19 (NASB)**

***Memory Verses:*** *"So the word of the Lord was growing and prevailing mightily."* — Acts 19:20 (NASB)

These chapters trace Paul’s powerful missionary efforts in **Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus**, highlighting the work of the Holy Spirit, bold preaching, conversions, opposition, and the establishment of strong churches.

**1. Spirit-Led Journeys and Strategic Obedience**

*(Acts 16:6–40; 17:1–15) Paul and his team are guided by the Holy Spirit to Macedonia, leading to major gospel breakthroughs despite persecution.*

1. **How did the Holy Spirit direct Paul and his companions in Acts 16?** *(16:6–10)*
2. **Who was Lydia, and how did her conversion begin the Philippian church?** *(16:14–15)*
3. **What happened to Paul and Silas after casting a spirit out of the slave girl?** *(16:19–24)*
4. **What did Paul and Silas do in prison, and what was the miraculous result.** *(16:25–26)*
5. **How was the Philippian jailer saved, and what does this teach us about faith?** *(16:30–33)*

**2. Gospel Boldness and Cultural Clash**

*(Acts 17:16–34; 18:1–17) Paul boldly preaches in Athens and Corinth, engaging both religious and secular audiences with the truth of Christ.*

1. **What troubled Paul about Athens, and how did he respond?** *(17:16–17)*
2. **How did Paul engage the philosophers on Mars Hill?** *(17:22–31)*
3. **What was the reaction to Paul’s message in Athens?** *(17:32–34)*
4. **Who did Paul meet in Corinth, and how did they help the ministry?** *(18:1–3)*
5. **How did God encourage Paul to stay and preach in Corinth despite opposition?** *(18:9–10)*

**3. Discipleship and the Power of the Holy Spirit**

*(Acts 18:18–28; 19:1–20) Paul continues strengthening the Church, while Apollos and others are trained in sound doctrine and spiritual power.*

1. **Who was Apollos, and how was he helped by Priscilla and Aquila?** *(18:24–26)*
2. **What did Paul ask the disciples in Ephesus, and why?** *(19:2–3)*
3. **What happened when Paul laid hands on them?** *(19:6)*
4. **How did Paul’s preaching affect Ephesus and the surrounding region?** *(19:11–20)*

**4. Confronting Idolatry and Trusting God’s Sovereignty**

*(Acts 19:21–41) The gospel threatens the idol-making economy of Ephesus, leading to a riot—but God protects His messengers.*

1. **Why did a riot break out in Ephesus?** *(19:23–27)*

**Reflect**

1. **Discerning Divine Guidance:** *In Acts 16:6–10, Paul and his companions are prevented by the Holy Spirit from preaching in certain regions, leading them instead to Macedonia. Reflect on a time when your plans were unexpectedly changed. How did you discern and respond to what you believed was God's redirection in your life?*
2. **Responding to Opposition with Faith:** *While in Philippi, Paul and Silas are imprisoned after casting out a spirit from a slave girl (Acts 16:16–24). Despite their circumstances, they pray and sing hymns to God. How do you typically react to opposition or hardship in your faith journey? What practices help you maintain trust in God during challenging times?*
3. **Engaging with Diverse Audiences:** *In Athens, Paul addresses the Areopagus, tailoring his message to connect with Greek philosophers by referencing their culture and beliefs (Acts 17:22–31). How can you effectively communicate your faith to individuals with different worldviews or cultural backgrounds? What strategies can you employ to find common ground?*
4. **The Role of Community in Spiritual Growth:** *Apollos, though knowledgeable, receives further instruction from Priscilla and Aquila to understand "the way of God more accurately" (Acts 18:24–26). Reflect on the importance of community and mentorship in your spiritual development. Are there areas where you could benefit from guidance, or opportunities for you to mentor others?*
5. **Confronting Cultural and Economic Idolatry:** *In Ephesus, Paul's preaching threatens the local economy centered around the worship of Artemis, leading to a significant uproar (Acts 19:23–41). Consider how the gospel challenges societal norms and personal idols today. Are there cultural or economic practices in your environment that conflict with your faith values? How can you address these tensions thoughtfully and courageously?*