

Sept 27, 2026 Small Group Questions

When the Spirit Redirects

Acts 15:36-16:15

This Sunday we continued a sermon series entitled “*Empowered to Bear Witness to Jesus’ Kingdom.*” This series focuses on how the risen and ascended Jesus empowers his disciples for mission through the gift of the outpoured Holy Spirit.

Small Group Questions

1. **Read Acts 15:36–16:5 together. As you read this section, what stands out to you? What surprises you, confuses you, or raises questions? Pay particular attention to the people, decisions, conflicts, and changes of direction in the story.**
2. **Look again at Acts 15:36–16:5.** Paul begins this journey with a fairly straightforward plan: “*Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord.*” (15:36) **What seems to be Paul's responsibility in this part of the story, and what seems to be God's responsibility? What does Paul actually know about what he's supposed to do — and what doesn't he know?**

If you want to press into this question a bit more:

What would change in our lives if we believed we don't need to see the whole path before taking the next faithful step?

3. **Read Acts 16:6–10 slowly. What does Luke tell us about how Paul and his companions were guided? What do they know at each stage, and what remains unclear?**
4. The Spirit prevents Paul from going into two places where he apparently intended to minister. **How might Paul have interpreted those closed doors? What are some possible ways we might interpret closed doors in our own lives?**

Based on this passage, what can we say with confidence about closed doors — and what can we *not* say with confidence?

5. **Read Acts 16:11–15. What do you notice about Lydia and the way she comes to faith? What does Luke emphasize about Paul's activity and about God's activity?**

6. In Acts 15:36–16:15 we see people making plans, encountering obstacles, changing direction, investing in people, and discovering what God is doing along the way.

Where are you currently facing a situation in which you know something about God's calling or faithfulness, but don't know exactly what the next step is? What might it look like to:

- **practice faithfulness rather than wait for perfect clarity;**
- **surrender your plans rather than try to control the outcome;**
- **pay attention to the people God puts in your path rather than becoming consumed with the project or plan?**

Close in prayer.