

# **Unstuck: How the Apostle Paul Changed the World**

## **Lesson 2**

Acts 16:1-10

November 28, 2021

### **Led by the Spirit**

#### **Introduction**

Our dreams can be some of the most hilarious, random, nonsensical experiences we will ever encounter. So, in heading to Google to read about some weird dreams, here are some great examples.

One man said that in his dream, he flicked on the light to see Bruce Springsteen going through the man's sock drawer and stealing all the good pairs! Another man recounted his scary dream where everyone had waffles for heads, and the villain went around taking bites out of the waffle heads. Yet another talked about Kit Harrington coming under Big Ben and putting three balls of moss on the dreamer, saying, "Reading is everywhere!" The last one is of a woman who dreamt of a sloth doing her nails and telling her to invest in the stock market!

Many scientists will tell you the reason for your dreams, going through how the brain works to form them. We've seen some dreams in the Bible interpreted, as in the story of Joseph. This week's story portrays God giving clear direction through dreams and visions.

Does God still speak to us through dreams? Should the lady from Google invest in the stock market as the nail-painting sloth suggested? If not through dreams, how are we to know if God is talking to us, or if it is our stress?

***Memory verse: "Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by. The Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia." —Acts 16:6***

Pray and read Acts 16:1-10. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**What does the passage say?**

1. To where did Paul travel? How does the passage describe Timothy's family? (Acts 16:1)
2. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised? (Acts 16:3)
3. What was done in each town? (Acts 16:4)
4. What happened because of Paul and Timothy's messages? (Acts 16:5)
5. Who was it that kept Paul and Timothy from entering certain towns? (Acts 16:6-8)
6. What was Paul's vision? (Acts 16:9)
7. What did Paul do because of the vision? (Acts 16:10)

## **What does the passage mean?**

1. Acts 14 talks about Paul's first missionary journey to Derbe and Lystra, where Paul and Barnabas were touted as gods but stoned according to further passages (Acts 14:8-20). What was Paul's mindset when it came to his life and ministry? (Philippians 1:20-26)
  
2. Timothy was ready to join the missionary journey. How was this a provision of God? (Acts 15:36-41)
  
3. Verse 4 talks about the decisions reached by the apostles and elders. What were the decisions made? (Acts 15:24-29) Why was it essential that all the churches were on the same page about how to live?

4. The Holy Spirit, at multiple times, kept Paul and his companions from going into certain cities, and in one instance, gave Paul a dream that he was to go to Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10). What are some ways that God speaks to us today? (Joshua 1:8; Philippians 4:6-8; 2 Timothy 4:2)
  
5. Paul preached that circumcision isn't necessary for salvation yet chose to circumcise Timothy. What was Paul's possible motivation for circumcising Timothy? (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

### **Applying the passage**

1. The question of God's will and direction for our lives is uttered often. God can choose to speak through dreams, but He speaks through other, more subtle avenues nowadays. What are some spiritual disciplines that need development in your life? How might this help in hearing from God?

