

Day 1: Listen to the Lesson and Complete this Self Evaluation:

Pray – this is to be done in prayer, just as David cried out to God in Psalm 139:23-24: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.”

What are my priorities as laid out **through Scripture**? List a verse for each priority, let's step away from making an arbitrary list based off of an article we read or what a friend said...really search God's word for this! I know for me, if it's something the Lord has revealed to me that I need to work on, having a verse memorized reminding me of what God says about it drives me closer to Him!

We are not all living in the same circumstances or the same season of life, so our priorities will be determined by God's word, and not by what our neighbor is doing! This exercise is to encourage us all unto righteousness, so don't feel defeated, be encouraged that the Holy Spirit is working in your heart!

Now, make a list of the top 5 priorities in your life - be specific, and don't forget the verse:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Go back through that list and evaluate yourself, this is where the brutal honesty and conviction of the Holy Spirit comes in. Did the way I used my time, my attitudes, my actions demonstrate to those closest to me that these are indeed my priorities? Did I live my life in a way through this past week that if they were asked what my priorities are, would they make the same list? In the space provided below pray over your past week and ask the Lord to reveal to your heart where you need improvement and what that looks like, He is faithful! Record that below, just for you to look back on later so you can see how much the Lord has used His word and Holy Spirit to grow you in this area!

Instructions for days 2-6

We are starting our journey through Philippians by setting the “stage”. We are going to spend some time this week getting to know the setting of the book of Philippians, starting with where it all began during Paul's Second Missionary Journey, for this we will dive into Acts 16.

Our focus will be more on Inductive Bible study, mainly, four simple steps:

1. Pray – asking for the Holy Spirit to guide you.
2. Make Observations (Ask questions: who, what, when, where, why)
3. Make interpretations based off of your observations – what does that mean?
4. Application – here's an easy guide to follow:
 - a. **Sins to Avoid**
 - b. **Promise to Claim**
 - c. **Examples to Follow**
 - d. **Commands to Obey**
 - e. **Sins to Avoid**

On the following pages you will find Acts 16 double spaced. This is for you to use, mark up, highlight...walk through these steps throughout these pages. This is the backbone of this study...reading the Word, daily!

Acts 16

Day 2

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, ² and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted this man to ⁴ go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. ⁵ So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

⁶ They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; ⁷ and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; ⁸ and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had

seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹ So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a *Roman* colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.

Day 3

¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

¹⁴ A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

I must ask you to allow me today to “observe” a few things along with you:

1. Paul, as a Rabbi trained by Gamaliel (Greatest Rabbi of their time), was guaranteed a hearing at any synagogue, which was his custom when he entered

a new town. However, Philippi, having not met the requirement to have a synagogue of 10 or more Jewish men who were heads of households, Paul knew the Jews of the town would gather to pray by the riverside. -John MacArthur's New Testament Commentary on Acts 13-28

2. The first European Convert was a woman named Lydia. These verses are so rich! Not only does this deny the claim by many feminist Bible teachers that Paul is merely a male chauvinist and therefore his teachings on the roles of men and women in the church should be "explained away" as a Pauline preference, also, we must note here that no other Rabbi of Paul's stature would have taught a hearing of only women! Furthermore, these women, left without a man to lead, humbly met together and faithfully prayed! - Sisters, this is our answer! When we don't know what to do...fall on our knees! Pray! Disobedience is never honoring to Christ!
3. What else have you observed about Lydia?

Day 4

¹⁶It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

¹⁹But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was ²⁰gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, ²⁰and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion,

being Jews, ²¹ and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans.”

1. What emotion caused Paul to cleanse the demon possessed slave girl?

2. Was she lying?

3. What was the response of her masters? _____ Could it be said that they missed the miracle for the money? _____
4. Do we as believers ever miss out on something the Lord is doing, or teaching us because we are frustrated by the circumstances we find ourselves in? Do we ever miss the miracle for the money? _____

Day 5

²²The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order *them* to be beaten with rods. ²³When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; ²⁴and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; ²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.²⁷ When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Day 6

³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them that *very* hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*. ³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

³⁵ Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, “Release those men.” ³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, *saying*, “The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace.” ³⁷ But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out.” ³⁸ The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans, ³⁹ and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ They went out of the prison and entered *the house of* Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.