

STUDY GUIDE

JANUARY 15, 2023

UPSIDE DOWN | NOT ALL DISAGREEMENTS ARE CREATED EQUAL
ACTS 15:36-16:10

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below.

WORK AHEAD | HOW CAN I COME PREPARED FOR MY GROUP?

1. Read Acts 15:36-16:10.
2. Look over your message notes. What was surprising or insightful? What questions were raised?
3. If time allows, look ahead at the "Digging In" section and think through how you would contribute to your group discussion.

FOR STARTERS | THOUGHTS TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE

1. If you had to give instructions to a spy who had to pretend to be you, what would you tell them?
2. What's not a big deal to anyone else, but for you is a hill to die on?

DIGGING IN | DISCOVERING WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURE

This important passage tells us the origin of Paul's second missionary journey and how God led them to plant the world's first churches on the European continent.

1. First, take some time to simply read the passage and make observations. (It may be helpful to have a good study Bible like the excellent [and free] Faithlife Study Bible.)
 - a. Who are the characters listed?
 - b. What jumps out at you?

When Church Leaders Disagree

1. Read Colossians 4:10, Acts 13:13 and Acts 15:36-39.
2. In this passage we see Paul and Barnabas, who were longtime friends and ministry partners, divided over what to do about John Mark.

- a. Try and picture the situation. Based on what we know from Scripture, what was going on? Who do you think was right?
 - b. Can you think of any situations where churches have faced tension when its' leaders disagree? What is needed in those times?
3. See how God eventually restored Paul's relationship with Barnabas (1 Corinthians 9:6) and Mark (Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11 and Philemon 23-24).
- a. What does this teach us about the love, grace and forgiveness God calls us to show to one another?

The Next Generation

1. In Acts 16:1-3, we are introduced to a young man named Timothy who becomes Paul's protégé. Later in one of Paul's letters to Timothy, we get a glimpse of their relationship. Read 2 Timothy 1:4-5 and 4:6-10. What kind of relationship did they have?
2. Read Philippians 2:19-20. What impact did this mentorship have on the church?
3. What would it look like to intentionally build this kind of generational bond in order to equip the next generation of Christ followers?

BRINGING IT HOME | APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Personal Reflection

How might God be calling you to contribute to the strength and health of Door Creek Church in this season?

Group Application

Pray for the pastor transition process. Specifically, ask for God's guidance and blessing on the board and the search committee.

DIGGING DEEPER | IDEAS TO KEEP GROWING DURING THE WEEK

1. Have you taken the church assessment? You can do that [here](#).
2. It's a good time to catch up with where we are in our Acts study. Review the Bible Project's video on Acts [here](#).