

# Philippi

## To the Ends of the Earth - Paul's second missionary journey

### Foundation

#### Bible passage : Acts 16

Not long after returning from their first journey Paul and Barnabas intended to travel again but had a sharp disagreement about whether John Mark should go with them. As a result two teams set out with Barnabas going to Cyprus and Paul, with Silas, going west to Lystra, where Timothy joined them.

Paul wanted to share the message of Jesus but strangely found that the Holy Spirit would not let him speak in Asia (part of eastern Turkey). So they travelled west to Mysia planning to go north east but again the Spirit would not let them. We are not told how that happened but then Paul can a vision in which have man of Macedonia was calling them over the sea to what we now think of as Europe. There they walked to Philippi a major city, where, for the first time, they found no Jewish synagogue. Three eventful incidents happened there but the focus in this module is how the Spirit was leading them.

The conversion of Lydia, who they met by the river, was covered in Module 17. Then after casting an evil spirit out of a slave girl in the city Paul and Silas found themselves attached, beaten and imprisoned.

In prison Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns and then in the middle of the night there was an earthquake so that the prison doors were opened and their bonds unfastened. This convicted the jailer, so that Paul and the others were able to tell him about Jesus and call him to believe in Jesus. He and his household believed and were baptised.

“we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.” v10



The next day Paul informed the Philippian authorities that he was a Roman citizen. This meant that they should not have treated him as they as they had done without a proper trial and so he was released with many apologies. Paul encouraged the believers and then moved on.

We see how Paul wanted to spread the light of Christ in certain places, but the Holy Spirit had led him to Philippi which was in a different country and how people there also came to believe in Jesus.

But we also see how spreading the light was costly with the disciples being beaten up and imprisoned. Yet even through this in the darkness of a prison they were able to spread the light of Christ to the Jailer and his household.

Later when Paul had been arrested again he and Timothy wrote to the Christians in Philippi and we learn that after he had moved on, they were so grateful that they continued to support him so that he could keep spreading **the light of Christ**.

**When Paul was rightly seeking to spread the gospel the Holy Spirit guided him to where God wanted him to go.**