

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 16:1-5 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Timothy

**ACTS 16:1**, "Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek." (ESV)

- Luke packs an entire character sketch into one verse
- Derbe & Lystra
  - Previous districts visited by Paul and Barnabas
  - Driven out of both
  - Lystra was where Paul was nearly stoned to death
- Timothy is a disciple
  - Timothy's mother is a Jewish-Christian
  - Timothy is not circumcised
  - His father is Greek
    - The implication is that his father is not a believer
- Timothy represents the many levels of complicated the church is navigating
  - Paul is preaching that the Gentiles do not need to strictly adhere to Jewish law
  - In order to maintain his ties to the synagogues (and place to preach), Paul cannot appear to advocate apostasy



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**ACTS 16:3**, "Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek." (ESV)

- This is no small sacrifice
  - Paul is not contradicting himself; in fact, he's practicing the same thing he's preaching to the Gentiles.
    - The reason that the Gentiles were told to abstain from things like eating blood or food that was offered as sacrifice was to prevent obstacles for their Jewish brothers and sisters
- Timothy is asked to be circumcised for the sake of their reach in ministry

**ACTS 16:4**, "As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem." (ESV)

- Paul, Silas, and now Timothy, are sharing the encouraging decision reached back in Jerusalem
- The three are an effective team

**ACTS 16:5**, "So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily."

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Konstantinos Tsakos: Samos; the Archeological Museums Zondervan, Acts: Archeological Study Bible, John B. Miller, Convinced That God Had Called Us, C. Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History

