



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Acts 15:36-16:15

Introduction: In this passage the Apostle Paul and his companions embark on their second missionary journey. On this journey they experience various challenges that require them to give up good things in order to go where the Holy Spirit is leading. Ultimately this passage confronts us with the reality that, at times, we too must be willing to give up even good things in order to follow Jesus.



Into the Word

How would you explain Paul and Barnabas' disagreement in Acts 15:36-41? Was this disagreement handled sinfully or properly? How does the passage indicate that God is still at work?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. How does this passage explain Paul's reason for circumcising Timothy? What do you think Timothy learned from this experience?

What decisions or attitudes would have inhibited Paul from following the Holy Spirit in these stories?

Read Galatians 5:13. What is the purpose of our freedom in Christ? How is this displayed throughout Paul's journey?

Note: 4 Principles for the Exercise of Christian Liberty



Into the Heart

What good thing may be the hardest to give up in our lives? Why?

How can good things in our lives hinder us from following Jesus? Be specific.
Consider: Matthew 6:24

Read Philippians 2:5-8. How is giving up good things a picture of the Gospel?



Into the World

Timothy surrendered his rights for the sake of his Gospel witness. How might fighting for our rights compromise our Gospel witness? How might Paul's view of Christian freedom shape our approach to divisive issues?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God." Has this ever happened to you? How might this perspective change our approach to our plans or routines?