

### Summary of this week's teaching:

God is at work expanding the church from Asia minor into Macedonia (modern day Greece). We see the Spirit direct Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke to know where to go, guide them in winsome evangelism, and give them words to speak. We also see the Spirit open the eyes of Lydia to truly see the beauty of the Gospel!

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What skill did you learn from one of your parents or a mentor that you're most thankful for?

**Seed:** The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) 1 Corinthians 2

1. How did Paul share the Gospel with the Corinthians? What can we learn from the way that Paul shared the Gospel?
2. This passage is rich with truth about the Spirit. What does the Spirit do?

**Roots:** Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. Through Acts 16:1-5 we saw that Timothy did a hugely sacrificial thing to make it easier for the Jews to hear and receive the gospel message. Where is the line between making the gospel easier to receive and not watering down the gospel?
2. In Acts 16:6-10 Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke discern where the Spirit is guiding them. In what ways have you received guidance from the Spirit?

**Trunk:** Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. What part of sharing the Gospel seems most difficult or fear-inducing for you? What steps of faith might God be calling you to, either to overcome that fear or act with courage in the face of it?

**Crown:** Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. If you haven't already, please take some time to make a list of people you know who don't know Jesus so that you can pray for them. For each of the people on your list, what is the thing that they are stumbling over that prevents them from receiving the Gospel? (If you don't know, then try and share the gospel and they'll tell you)
2. Who can you show love to and share the Gospel with this week or this month? What sort of time together could you schedule that might facilitate that conversation?

