CVC Life Group & Sermon Guide

Acts 16:1–15 — When God Opens Doors

Opening Question: Have you ever faced a situation where things didn't go as expected? What happened?

1. Background & Scripture Acts 16:1–15

In Acts 15, Paul and Barnabas disagreed and separated, but God's mission continued. Paul traveled with Silas to strengthen churches and share the gospel.

Discussion Question: Are you willing to trust God even when the door you expected to open stays closed?

2. Who Is Your Timothy? Acts 16:1–5 Invest in the next generation.

- Paul recognized Timothy's potential and brought him into ministry.
- We must not let past disappointments keep us from investing in others.
- Young people need encouragement, mentorship, and Godly examples.

Discussion Questions:

- Who invested in you spiritually?
- Who is your Timothy — someone you can encourage or mentor?
- What can you do this week to invest in that person?

3. Trust God When He Redirects Your Plans Acts 16:6–10

A closed door is not always a sign of failure.

- The Holy Spirit prevented Paul from going where he had planned.
- God redirected Paul through a vision of a man from Macedonia.
- Paul obeyed, and the gospel reached new people.

Applications:

- Pray for direction when plans change.
- Seek godly counsel.
- Continue doing what is right while waiting for clarity.
- Be willing to follow God in a new direction.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you experienced a closed door that led to an unexpected opportunity?
- Is there a situation you need to surrender to God?
- How can you trust Him when you don't understand His plan?

4. Take Time with Others: Lydia's Open Heart & Open Home Acts 16:11–15

God opens hearts, and He can use us to serve others.

- Lydia listened to Paul's message, and the Lord opened her heart.
- She and her household were baptized.
- Lydia opened her home to support Paul and his companions.

Applications:

- Listen to God's Word and respond in obedience.
- Pray for family and friends to receive the gospel.
- Use your home, time, gifts, and resources to serve others.
- Look for ways to welcome people and support church ministries.

Discussion Questions:

- Who are the “Lydias” around you who need encouragement or an invitation?
- How can you open your heart and home to others?
- How can you serve through welcoming, setup, teardown, or other church ministries?

5. Personal Reflection & Application

- Trust: What door do I need to stop forcing and surrender to God?
- Invest: Who is my Timothy?
- Listen: What is God asking me to hear or obey?
- Serve: How can I be like Lydia and serve others?

6. Prayer