

## **LESSON 2: ACTS 15:22-16:40**

### **The Jerusalem Council and Its Aftermath**

1. Describe the contents and tone of the letter which is sent to Antioch (vv.22-29). Discuss the significance of these rules for the Church? What is their significance? Do they apply today? (Read and discuss Genesis 1:26-30; 9:1-10.)
2. Why was the decision by the Council so important to the Antiochene Church (vv.30-35)?
3. Why send representatives as well as a letter (vv.24-25,32-33)? What does this have to offer that a postage stamp doesn't? What do Judas and Silas do during their stay in Antioch? Discuss prophesy in the early church? Can we speak of prophesy happening today?

### **The Second Missionary Journey to Philippi**

4. What is the "sharp contention" in the Church, and how does it benefit God's plan for the evangelism of the world (vv. 36-41)?
5. How does Barnabas again live up to the meaning of his name (v. 39; see also 4:36)? Wouldn't you like to know more about his journey with Mark?
6. Is there a difference between the pattern of Church growth described here (16:4-5) and the techniques of Church growth promoted today? What should Bucks Central Church be doing in this regard?
7. How does the Holy Spirit lead Paul and the team (vv. 6-10)?

8. In what sense is the Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of Jesus” (v. 7)? What does this tell you about the nature of God?
  
9. What is the charge against Paul and Silas (vv. 16-24)? What customs wouldn’t a Roman accept or practice? Is the charge accurate or trumped up?
  
10. Why do Paul and Silas spend the night “praying and singing hymns to God” (v. 25)? Is this any way to meet a personal crisis?
  
11. Rather than flee captivity through an event that would seem to happen through God’s grace, what other opportunity do Paul and Silas seize (vv. 26-34)? From this example, what comes first in life?
  
12. When the father in a family accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, is it fair that “all the rest of the family” must do so as well (v. 33b)?
  
13. How do Paul and Silas deal with the Roman officials in Philippi (vv. 35-39)? What principles in dealing with authority do their actions suggest to you?