

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

How to Be Saved
Acts 16:11-15, 22-34

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

The Bible studies in this Unit may tend to run long in time. Feel free to cut activities, limit extended lists, or do whatever you think wise to "watch" your time. Otherwise, the person in charge of the Worship Time will not have sufficient time to properly call the church to commitment to God's guidance through this passage of His Word.

From old magazines or newspapers, cut out the pictures of several people of different races or cultures. On a piece of cardboard or poster board, make a rough collage. This

will only be used for this week's session unless you want it displayed as a future reminder of the need for all the peoples of the world to be saved.

Bible Study Leader:

Print two copies of the list found on the final page of this week's session for use in two small groups during the Bible Study Time.

Note any other materials in the Teaching Plan that you will want to have on hand for making lists, etc. It is always good to have a supply of newsprint and markers on hand.

Worship Time Leader:

Music Sources:

"Shine, Jesus, Shine", Marantha Praise, Expanded 3rd Edition (1993) p. 2

"The Lord is My Light" Marantha Praise, Expanded 3rd Edition (1993) p. 64

"Thou Art Worthy" Marantha Praise, Expanded 3rd Edition (1993) p. 208

"Freely, Freely" BH (1991) #273

"Take my Life and Let It Be Consecrated" BH (1991) #277

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***How to Be Saved*****Focal Text**

Acts 16:11-15, 22-34

Background Text

Acts 15:36—16:40

Main Idea

Salvation is available to all people through faith in Christ.

Question to Explore

What must I—or anyone—do to be saved?

Teaching Aim

To lead participants to clarify how people are saved.

Gathering together:

Be attentive to helping each person get settled in (including the preschoolers) so that the introduction to the session concept in the brief Gathering Time is not lost to anyone. Sing a worship song. Let the younger children lead out with one if they will. It doesn't have to fit the theme. (See music sources and coordinate with the person who will lead the **Worship Time**.)

First thoughts:

Leader: Show the group the collage with the pictures of people of different races which you cut out of a magazine, beforehand.

Ask: What makes these people different? Give opportunity for responses. Now ask: How are they alike? Answers like "They each have two eyes and ears are just fine. You are wanting the group to get interested in the collage and to think of them as individual persons. Then, point out that each one must be given the opportunity to choose Jesus Christ.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Say: Two weeks ago, we learned that everyone in the world has the same spiritual need—and can have that need met by being saved. Last week, we looked at the fact that everyone is saved the same way by trusting Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. However, simply knowing these facts and even understanding them doesn't mean that we or anyone else will actually be saved. Something has to be done about it. This week we are going to look again at some heroes of the New Testament and see what they did about it.

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

How to Be Saved

Focal Text

Acts 16:11-15, 22-34

Background Text

Acts 15:36—16:40

Main Idea

Salvation is available to all people through faith in Christ.

Question to Explore

What must I--or anyone--do to be saved?

Teaching Aim

To lead participants to clarify how people are saved.

Introduction to your personal study:

Many answers are given to the question “What must I—or anyone—do to be saved?” Some of the responses: Go to a certain church. Participate in a certain ritual such as baptism. Attend worship services. Treat your family a certain way. Be of a certain race. Live in a particular place. Love your country. Give dollars to a religious group. Visit a certain religious shrine. Make a sacrifice of food or goods to an idol. Be a member of a family who has certain religious history. Observe certain religious holidays. Obey the Ten Commandments. This list goes on. This study helps answer the question “***What must I do to be saved?***”

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you as well.

Rather than pursuing an idea verse by verse through a Bible book, sometimes we need to focus on persons to demonstrate the concept being studied. Much can be learned about our own needs and goals by looking at the lives and ministries of Biblical personalities. After all, that is why the Biblical writers included those people in their books and letters.

Focusing on the Meaning:

Responding to the Macedonian Vision (Acts 16:11-12)

Paul had just seen the vision of the man of Macedonia asking that he come to Macedonia to help them.

Acts 16:11 Troas was on the eastern side of the Aegean Sea. This was the extreme western end of Asia. Across the Aegean Sea to the north and west was Macedonia as it was known in New Testament times. It was in present day southeastern Europe. It embraced the northern part of Biblical day Greece. Sailing on the Aegean Sea Paul and his party came to Samothrace and Neapolis.

Acts 16:12 Philippi was named for himself by Philip, the father of Alexander the Great. Philippi was about nine miles from the coast. It was here that Paul has his first convert in Europe. Philippi was not the capital but seems to be the leading city because of commerce. The language used was Latin.

The First Converts. A Pious Woman and Her Family (Acts 16:13-15)

Acts 16:13 Evidently there were not enough Jewish men (ten) to justify the existence of a building for a synagogue. The Jews who did worship met at the river. There Paul and Silas engaged in conversation a group of women who came to the river to pray. Paul and the others sat down which was the Jewish custom for public speaking. It was most likely conversational preaching.

Acts 16:14 One of the women present was Lydia. She is identified first by vocation. She was a dyer of cloth. The water in the area was well-adapted for dying materials. It seems that no other location could produce the purple cloth that was made here. Lydia was sincerely religious and a worshiper of God—but she was not a Christian. She evidently had a hunger for a deeper religious experience. She worshipped God according to the knowledge she had of him. She opened her heart to the message. “Opened” suggests that her heart was opened wide like a two part door that folds back completely. It was God who opened her heart. The disciples gave the message but it was God who did the opening. Paul and Silas responded to the vision of the man of Macedonia call “**...to come over and help us.**” Their first convert however was a

woman. The scripture does not indicate if this happened on the first occasion of their meeting together or on a subsequent Sabbath.

Acts 16:15 Not only Lydia was saved, but her entire family was saved and baptized along with her. There is no mention of who her “family” includes. It could include servants along with blood relatives. She offered her home as an expression of God working in her life. Then she persuaded Paul and the others to stay at her house. This invitation was more than a polite, “Come and stay in my house.” This offer had some moral force or hospitable persuasion. Paul and his party then agreed to respond positively to Lydia’s offer.

A Second Convert. The Roman Jailer and His Family (Acts 16:22-34)

Acts 16:22 Paul had cast a demon out of a young woman. Her owners, angry at their loss of income, caused a riot. Onlookers joined the opposition to Paul and Silas. Then the two were taken before the city fathers. The judges sentenced them to be beaten. The disciples had their clothes stripped off and were beaten with rods. The beating was illegal because Paul and Silas had Roman citizenship. The fact that this act was illegal did not make the bodily harm any less or make the pain less.

Acts 16:23 We are not told what “many stripes” indicated. Jewish law prohibited more than thirty-nine. However, Roman law was administered primarily on the justice or caprice of the judge. Following the beating they were taken to the prison where they were to be guarded closely.

Acts 16:24 Receiving orders from the authorities to guard them carefully, the jailer not only put them in an inside cell but placed their feet in stocks. Some stocks of the time had five holes, two for ankles, two for wrists, and one for the neck. The stock in this prison probably had only holes for the feet. This confinement in the stocks was not necessary because they were in an inner room of the prison.

Acts 16:25 They were stripped, flogged, in an inner cell, and their feet were in stocks, yet Paul and Silas were not complaining but were worshiping God at midnight. Rather than seeking to obtain rest, they were praying and praising God. The other prisoners listened with pleasure. It was behaviour prisoners had not seen.

Acts 16:26 The jail worship service had quite a climax. An earthquake hit. The jail was shaken. The doors all flew open. The prisoners’ chains came loose. If the prison was built into an excavation of rock, the earthquake could have broken the rods of the door loose and the chains fallen out of the wall.

Acts 16:27 Awakened by the earthquake he checked on the prisoners. Finding the prison doors open, he expected to find the prisoners gone. Under law, a jailer was responsible for the security of the prisoners. If they escaped, he would pay with his life. He prepared to commit suicide with his sword rather than to be killed by his superiors. Suicide may have been popular as an escape from trouble.

Acts 16:28 Paul interrupted the jailer by shouting and letting the jailer know that the prisoners were still all in the jail. It is not clear how Paul knew all the prisoners were still there. It could have been because he was in a position to see, or it could have been knowledge the Holy Spirit gave him.

Acts 16:29 Wanting to check on the truth of Paul's statement, the jailer ordered lights. He wanted to confirm in the light what Paul knew in the dark. The jailer looked with trembling fear to see the situation. He saw the prisoners all present and then fell down before the disciples. It was in a spirit of worship that he fell before the disciples.

Acts 16:30 He brought them out of the cell and left the other prisoners in their places. He could have heard about Paul's message from the officials who jailed him. He needed to hear more of it. Perhaps the jailer had heard Paul's singing and testifying in the prison. By asking what he must do to be saved, he was asking more than how could he avoid the prisoners' possible escape or the possible punishment from the authorities. He was conscious of the message that proclaimed salvation.

Acts 16:31 Paul and Silas were confronting a Gentile. He knew little of the Jewish tradition. Previously Paul had witnessed in a context that understood the Jewish teachings. Here was one who knew nothing of the traditions and teachings of Judaism. Paul did not chastise the jailer for the beating and imprisonment. Paul was physically hurting. He put this aside to respond to the jailer's question about salvation. Paul witnessed to the simplicity of the Gospel. His message was that the jailer must trust in Jesus. It was not simply an intellectual act. Belief was a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus.

Acts 16:32 Paul and Silas continued to explain to the jailer and his family that salvation came through Jesus.

Acts 16:33 Late in the night the jailer cared for the wounds the disciples received in the flogging. Then the jailer's entire family was baptized. Family members had responded just as the jailer did. It was a decision by each individual. The baptism probably took place in the pool or tank where the jailer had ministered to Paul and Silas.

Acts 16:34 The feeding of Paul and Silas not only met their physical need for food, but it showed that the disciples saw the jailer and his family as part of the Christian family. It was a time of fellowship. This eating together in the jailer's home demonstrated that a relationship to Christ made them acceptable for fellowship with Paul and Silas. Race, class, vocation, nationality, social status was not the thing that brought them together. It was the relationship of each to Christ that brought this togetherness and rejoicing.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Study:

As you teach these passages, remember that these people really lived and experienced all the spiritual and other needs that people have today. Their vocations may have

been different. They may have lived in a different time and culture. Yet, we have much in common with them. So, look at what took place in their lives and how they responded to those events and teachings. Try to bring these people to your group as real persons who can teach us many things.

For Personal Reflection:

1. **What have I learned from this study?**

2. **What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

3. **What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

How to Be Saved

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc. Children who stay with their parents in the Youth/Adult study should have the material on worship as suggested in **The Children's Corner** at the beginning of this **Unit** of studies. (Ask your leader who downloads the studies for those suggestions).

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Acts 16:11-15, 22-34

Background Text

Acts 15:36—16:40

Main Idea

Salvation is available to all people through faith in Christ.

Question to Explore

What must I--or anyone--do to be saved?

Teaching Aim

To lead participants to clarify how people are saved.

Connect with Life:

Ask: If you had an opportunity of going out on the street to talk with individuals as a reporter and asked the question, "What does a person have to do to be saved?"

Then ask: What are some of the answers you might receive? Give participants opportunity to think. Then get responses.

As the suggestions are given, write these on a piece of newsprint. Use a page out of the classified section without display ads if you do not have newsprint.

Go to a certain church.
Participate in a certain ritual such as baptism.
Attend worship services.
Treat your family a certain way.
Be of a certain race.
Live in a particular place.
Love your country.
Give dollars to a religious group.
Visit a certain religious shrine.
Make a sacrifice of food or goods to an idol.
Be a member of a family who has certain religious history.
Observe certain religious holidays.
Obey the Ten Commandments.
Believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Save this listing. Use it in the closing section of the lesson.

[For the Leader: As you lead the study, remember that people learn more when they discover the truth for themselves than they do when someone tells them. When asking questions or giving assignments always allow time for your members to think through the question and to complete the assignment. It is not necessary for there always to be talking in a class to achieve learning.]

Guide the Study:

State: Today we are going to answer that question by looking at the Apostle Paul's experience in Philippi.

Briefly review Paul's vision of the Macedonian man as recorded in Acts 16:6-10.

Continue: We are going to look at the experience of two people that Paul contacted.

Divide the class into two groups (If you have four or more participants). Assign one group Acts 16:13-15. Assign the other group Acts 16:25-34. Give both a copy of these questions and ask them to answer them by using the assigned passage. [Even one or two youth or adults per group is ok].

Print and bring two copies of these questions with you to class. They are found on the last page of this week's Worship Time with spacing provided for the groups' answers.

What were Paul and his companion doing at the beginning of this passage?

What do we know about the lost individual in this passage?

What was their vocation?

Where did Paul come in contact with this person?

Why was this person there?

What was their religious background?

What was the response of the person to Paul's conversion?

How did the conduct of the person change because of this experience?

Let the groups have about ten minutes to study the passage and answer the questions.

Ask each group to report. Add to their reports as needed to completely answer the questions. You may want to use the commentary material above to supplement their responses.

Question the group: What did Lydia do to be saved? Receive answer – (She responded to Paul's message).

Tell the group: The scripture does not state directly that she believed in Christ. We are knowledgeable of Paul's message that faith was the way an individual came to Christ. Then she was baptized.

Now pose this question: What did the Philippian jailer do to be saved? Get students to find the answers. The action the jailer took was to believe.

Invite a response to this: What did the jailer do after he was saved? He washed Paul's wounds, then was baptized.

Now ask: What did Lydia do after she was baptized? She persuaded Paul and his party to stay at her house.

Call for an answer to this: What did the Philippian jailer do after he was baptized? He took them into his house and fed them.

Get out the newsprint poster you prepared for Step 1. This lists the possible answers you get when asking the question ***"What does man have to do to be saved?"*** Read each item and mark thorough it with a marker or crayon. Go through the list and mark through each wrong answer. When you come to "Believe in Christ; trust in Jesus," circle that answer and say, "This is what the Bible says a person must do to be saved."

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to go away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Note to Leader: If you have time, the “**Take Ten**” youth application for today offers a great addition to applying this Bible study regarding who needs salvation and who is responsible for sharing the Gospel. You could include the youth in your application time or make a separate copy for you to use with the adults.

Say: Think of a person you know who is not a Christian. Pause for a few seconds.

Then say: Pray for that person that you will have opportunity to converse with that person this week. Pause again for a few seconds.

Lead in prayer for each person in the class and ask God to bless them as they share with their friend about believing in Christ.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

How to Be Saved **Acts 16:11-15, 22-34**

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Women, Men, Churches, and Sharing the Gospel

Write a brief first person account of the conversion of Lydia or of the Philippian jailer. If there are both girls and boys in your group, ask the girls to write from Lydia's viewpoint and the boys from the jailer's viewpoint. Read your accounts to one another.

For further discussion, talk about the interesting fact that the first convert of Paul's Macedonian missionary journey was a woman – a businesswoman. This evidence of Paul's understanding of the inclusiveness of Christian faith is quite astounding in the light of the strict Jewish heritage that Paul had experienced. In that heritage, women prepared for and participated in the Sabbath observance in their homes. But the religious teaching and discussion outside of the home was largely left to Jewish men. Yet Paul depended greatly on Lydia, Priscilla, and other women to start, grow, and reproduce churches across the mid-east and Europe.

As a young person, Is it important to you today that women as well as men have access to faith experiences and teaching/learning opportunities?

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***How to Be Saved***
Acts 16:11-15, 22-34**Beginning the Service:**

Choose from the following songs or others than speak of accepting Christ as Saviour.

“**Shine, Jesus, Shine**”, Marantha Praise, Expanded 3rd Edition (1993) p. 2

“**The Lord is My Light**” Marantha Praise, Expanded 3rd Edition (1993) p. 64

“**Thou Art Worthy**” Marantha Praise, Expanded 3rd Edition (1993) p. 208

“**Freely, Freely**” BH (1991) #273

“**Take my Life and Let It Be Consecrated**” BH (1991) #277

Offering:

Choose someone today to take up the offering who has not recently participated in the worship leadership. Ask them to pray the following prayer:

“Accept our offering, Lord, as an indication of our love for you. Bless its use for the ongoing of your Kingdom. Amen”

Praying for the World:

Missionaries in East Asia report opportunities for witness and ministry in many areas. They, like other humanitarian workers, are weary from the day and night attention to needs of all kinds. Pray for them to have patience to express God's love and grace to hurting people.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

The Most Important Question of Your Life

Acts 16:16-34

Introduction:

We face small questions every day.

Where is my mother? (or spouse?, or child?, or friend?).

What is for dinner?

What shall I wear today?

Where shall I go to church?

Other questions may only need to be asked or answered a few times in life. A few questions may only be asked or answered one time in our whole lives. Those questions are usually the very most important ones.

What is the most important question you will ever have to answer?

In our text today, three people face that very question. Paul, Silas, and Timothy were following God's leadership to go to Macedonia. They encountered three people: Lydia, a seller of purple; a demented slave girl; and a Roman jailer. They were of three nationalities but they each had a similar need. Notice the question in verse 30, "***Sirs, what must I do to be saved?***" They each needed to be saved.

Today each one of us must face the very same question. Have you decided what you must do to be saved? Have your friends answered that question? It is the most important question of life for you. It is the most important question of life for everyone.

1. Notice that it is a very urgent question. "What must I do?"

It is urgent because you can never be forgiven of your sins and know God unless you do it God's way. You must admit you need to be saved. The question of your salvation cannot be bypassed. You do not know how long you will have the opportunity to choose. Do not put off answering this question.

2. Notice how personal this question is. "What must I do?"

It is not what anyone else must do. The "I" is emphatic. You will never be saved by surprise. Your family or church cannot make the decision for you. No one can do it for you. The Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-23) refused to give up his riches for Jesus. He chose not to be saved. Zacchaeus the Tax Collector accepted Jesus and then gave away much of his wealth to those he had cheated (Luke 19:1-10). He chose to be saved. Each one had to answer for himself. Each of us must do so, too.

3. Notice the question demands action. “What must I do?”

Not what must I say, or think, or feel, or understand? It is what must I do? Verse 31 contains the answer to life’s most important question: **“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved....”** Romans 10:13 says, **“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”** Will you place your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?

Call to Commitment:

The rich fool of Luke 12:16 was a farmer who had a good farm. One year his farm produced a bumper crop. He didn’t have enough storage space for the crop, so he built larger barns. He thought he would never have to worry about life. His retirement would be wonderful. God called him a fool because he dealt with tomorrow before he dealt with eternity. He never answered the question, **“What must I do to be saved?”** God said to him, **“You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?”** The only time we have to be saved is now. Will you choose Jesus as your Lord and Saviour today? Will you share the Gospel with your friends to give them a chance to answer the question before it is too late?

Concluding the Service:

Sing together the song “Lead Me to Some Soul Today” BH (1991) #560

Questions to hand out to groups in the Bible Study Time

Group 1. Acts 16:13-15

Group 2. Acts 16:25-34

“What were Paul and his companion doing at the beginning of this passage?

What do we know about the lost individual in this passage?

What was their vocation?

Where did Paul come in contact with this person?

Why was this person there?

What was their religious background?

What was the response of the person to Paul’s testimony?

How did the conduct of the person change because of this experience?”