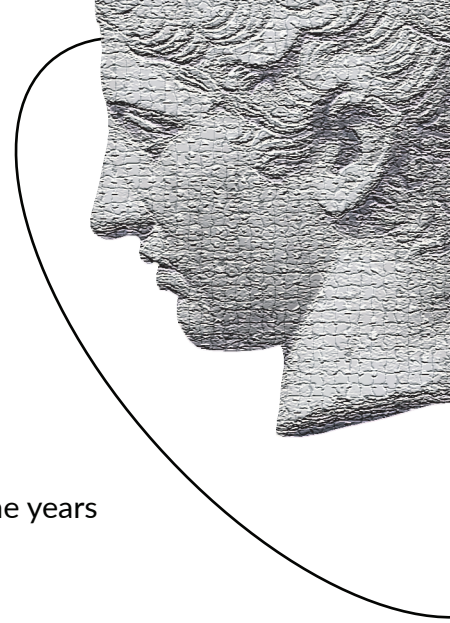




acts.

16



when.

- Paul, Silas, and Timothy's preaching journey most likely took place between the years 49-52 A.D.

characters.

- **Paul (Saul)** – An Apostle who was working in Asia Minor planting churches.
- **Silas** – Originally from Jerusalem, he accompanied Paul on his 2nd missionary journey.
- **Timothy** – A disciple from Lystra or Derbe, he joined Paul when he passed through the region preaching.
- **Lydia** - A woman from Philippi who became one of the first converts in the city.
- **Philippian Jailer** - A prison guard who became a believer after a great earthquake.

where.

- The chapter opens with Paul and Silas visiting the churches in Derbe and Lystra. He attempted to go north but was prohibited by God.
- After passing by the region of Mysia, Paul received directions to go to Macedonia.
- Paul, Silas, and Timothy sailed through the north Aegean Sea to the Roman colony of Philippi.



acts.

outline.

- A THIRD TRAVELLING COMPANION (ACTS 16:1-5):
 - + Paul and Silas visited Derbe and Lystra and met a disciple named Timothy.
 - + Paul asked Timothy to accompany them on their journey.
 - + Timothy agreed and the trio travelled from city to city encouraging, teaching, and sharing the decision made by the Jerusalem council in Acts 15.
- PAUL RECEIVES DIRECTION FROM A VISION IN THE NIGHT (ACTS 16:6-10):
 - + The Holy Spirit prevented Paul's company from going to Asia to preach.
 - + He also prevented the group from going north to Bithynia to spread the gospel.
 - + In Troas, Paul saw a vision of a man saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."
- LYDIA BECOMES A BELIEVER IN PHILIPPI (16:11-15):
 - + Paul, Silas, and Timothy sailed to the city of Philippi in Macedonia.
 - + Outside the city, there was a river where people gathered to pray and the trio spoke to a group of women who had gathered there.
 - + A woman named Lydia heard them gladly and was baptized along with her family.
- PAUL AND SILAS ARE THROWN IN PRISON (16:16-24):
 - + One day, a slave girl with a "spirit of divination" met Paul and started yelling, "These men are servants of the Most High God."
 - + She did this for several days until Paul commanded the spirit to depart from her.
 - + Her owners were angry because they made money from her divinations.
 - + They seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to the city rulers who commanded them to be beaten with rods.
 - + They were then thrown into the inner part of the prison and fastened in stocks.
- THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE AND THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER (16:25-40):
 - + At midnight, Paul and Silas were singing hymns in the prison.
 - + Suddenly, there was a great earthquake and the doors of the prison opened and everyone's bonds were unfastened.
 - + The jailer almost killed himself, thinking all the prisoners had escaped, but Paul and Silas stopped him.
 - + He asked Silas and Paul what he needed to do to be saved.
 - + The two preachers taught the jailer and his whole house about Jesus and they were all baptized that night.
 - + When it was discovered that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens and had been beaten unlawfully, the city rulers let them out of prison and apologized.

application.

- Your positive attitude during times of trial can have a huge impact on those observing you.
- Paul and Silas were beaten and chained in prison, but they found joy in Jesus and were singing hymns during their incarceration.
- Whatever they were singing must have had a big effect on the jailer, because after the earthquake he immediately ran up to Silas and Paul and asked what he needed to do to be saved.
- When we rejoice through suffering rather than sulking through it, we may be impacting people in powerful ways, even if we never aware of the impact.

