

## **“When God’s Work Moves Forward Anyway”**

**Acts 15:36–16:5**

**January 4, 2026**

### **Acts 15:36–39**

[36] And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” [37] Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. [38] But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. [39] And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus...

Faithful believers can still experience sharp disagreement.

### **Acts 15:40-41**

[40] but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. [41] And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Disunity does not derail God’s mission.

### **Acts 16:1–3**

[1] Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. [2] He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. [3] Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

Unity advances through voluntary sacrifice.

### **Matthew 5:23-24**

[23] So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Disunity is not God’s ideal.

God’s mission is not fragile.

## **Life Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you through the Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- Have you experienced disappointment or unresolved conflict within the church?
- Why are our conflicts much harder to manage when they turn personal?
- Have you ever experienced a situation where God used conflict or disappointment to redirect ministry or growth?
- Have you ever struggled with the reality that God’s work continues even when things feel unfinished or unresolved? Why or why not?
- Timothy laid down a freedom in order to reach more lost Jews with the gospel. What could that look like for us today?
- Where is the line between being adaptable for the sake of others and standing firm on gospel truth?
- How can we pursue peace and reconciliation without compromising truth? How do we strike that balance?

- What would it look like this week to trust that God is still at work—even in places of pain, disagreement, or uncertainty?
- How could continuing to serve God in the midst of pain actually become a means of healing?
- From your Life Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?