



## Investing in Others

Discussion Guide  
October 08, 2017  
Acts 16:1-5

### Questions for Study

\*\* Before you begin discussing these questions, read through Acts 16:1-5 as a group.

1. Describe a relationship in your life that had a significant influence on you. What stands out to you about the relationship? What made it influential?
2. Read Acts 1:8 and briefly summarize the mission Jesus gives the church. If we're going to make progress with this mission, why is "investing in others" and the power of relationships so vital?
3. In Acts 16:1-5 we read about Paul first meeting a young man named Timothy and inviting Timothy to join him. This relationship will grow into one that significantly shapes both Paul and Timothy, and serves the mission of the church in big ways. Read the following verses that shed more light on Paul's relationship with Timothy. After each, briefly state what stands out to you about either the relationship between Paul and Timothy or how they're working together to advance the mission of the church.
  - 2 Timothy 1:2
  - 2 Timothy 4:9-13
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:2-6
  - Philippians 2:19-24
4. Look again at Acts 16:1-5. What lessons can we learn from how Paul approaches investing in Timothy, that can transfer over to how you invest in others in your life?
5. Put yourself in Timothy's shoes for a minute. What characteristics did he need to have in order for him to "lean into" and accept Paul's invitation? Why are these sorts of characteristics so important in a discipling relationship, where two (or more) people are growing in Christ-likeness together?
6. What experiences do you already have with "investing in others" in intentional ways - either formally or informally? What lessons stand out to you from these experiences?
7. How can you intentionally begin investing in someone, to help them **develop** as disciples and **deploy** them into areas of service? How can your Community Group be a place where you're all helping do this for each other?
8. What is one practical step of application you need to take because of what you've learned from Acts 16:1-5? Share this with your group, and pray together for these things before finishing.
9. Challenge: Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2: "the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."