

INTRO

- Living here in the GTA, name one fun thing about the diversity of ethnicity and culture that surrounds us.

Acts is about the mission and ministry of Jesus continuing through his Spirit and his Church, and followers of Jesus today are called to participate in this unstoppable movement Jesus began.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
— Acts 1:8 ESV

READ

Acts 16:1-5, 11-15, 16-18, 25-34

REFLECT & RESPOND

How did a small religious movement among rural Jews spread across the Roman Empire, causing upheaval and spiritual transformation wherever it went? That is the very question Luke, the author of the book of Acts, is trying to answer. — Bible Project

Now the **company of believers** was of one heart and soul.. — Acts 4:32a AMP

We see in Acts 16 throughout the Book of Acts, God draws together a diverse group of people to build his church and to fulfill the directive of Jesus to take his good news into all the world. In this chapter, Paul begins his 2nd missionary journey, heading to what is today Europe. Here’s who we meet along the way

- Timothy, a very young man, the son of a Greek dad and Jewish mom
- Luke, a Greek, a physician, and the only Gentile (non-Jew) to write any portion of the New Testament (The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles)

- Lydia, a wealthy and influential Asian business woman who may have been the first Gentile convert to Christianity in Europe, and the first church meets in her home!
- An unnamed slave girl, likely between the ages of 10 & 14, miraculously delivered from a spirit that had held its grip on her
- A Philippian jailor, a former Roman soldier, with a brutal past believes, is baptized and radically changed

When Paul and Silas were released from prison and before they depart on their journey, “...they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.” verse 40

Who were these brothers and sisters?

The Company of Believers

- the prominent and the marginalized
- the educated and the simple
- the young and the old
- the Jew, the Greek, the Roman
- men and women

Our Vision Statement at Every Nation GTA:

“As a church we envision being a multi-ethnic people of all ages who passionately follow Jesus together on His mission to bring gospel transformation to the people and culture of Toronto and, through it, to the world.”

Qu: What beauty do you see as we strive to become this diverse church in the GTA?

Qu: What challenges do we face?

Qu: How have you grown walking with a diverse “Company of Believers”?

Qu: What unspoken message do you think we bring to those around?

PRAY

UNSTOPPABLE S3

The Company of Believers

- Pray that we could, like the church in Acts, we would continue to grow as multi-ethnic people of all ages who passionately following Jesus together on His mission