



Acts 16:6–15

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Acts 16:9–10

MEMORY VERSE

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. **Acts 16:9–10**

There is nothing more discouraging than discovering an important goal cannot be obtained. This can happen when students aren't accepted by their favorite college. Or, an injury in the first quarter of the first game of a senior's football season might end all his college athletic dreams.

Whatever the case, we must realize that God, too, has plans, and His plans can become our realities. Read Acts 16:6–15. Paul had great plans for spreading the gospel among the Gentiles throughout Asia. The Holy Spirit had other plans. Instead, He wanted Paul and his companions to go into Macedonia, where He was

already at work among a small group of women. The result was the founding of the church in Philippi.

Sometimes obstacles are of our own making. At other times, they are presented to keep us headed in the direction the Lord intends. Students need to realize that, where God is concerned, a closed door is not an ending, but a beginning. We should never look at an obstacle as the end of our dream, but instead as the beginning of God's dreams. When we submit to His ways, He may open up things, people, and places to us that we never had in mind. He will accomplish so much more than we can imagine.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

(Only one member of the family reads the following to himself/herself.) Set up a quick and easy maze, either in a large room in the house or in the backyard. The maze will have two endings, but one ending will be inaccessible. At the inaccessible ending, place a plate of cookies or muffins, something that is visible from the beginning. At the accessible ending, place a plate of cookies, bowls of candy, and popcorn. Make sure that it is hidden and can't be seen. Somewhere in the maze, make sure the first option is blocked, leaving only a path to the second option. The family takes turns attempting to navigate the maze.

Explore . . .

First, a family member reads Acts 16:6–15. Then, the family discusses: **How disappointed do you think Paul might have been when he couldn't travel into the Asian province? Who stopped Paul and his companions from going? What did the Holy Spirit obviously want Paul and his companions to do? What was the end result?**

Transform . . .

First, family members list obstacles they have recently encountered. Then, they discuss how they responded to the obstacles and how God could be using or has used these obstacles. Finally, they discuss the end results, if known. Ask: **How does God want me to respond to obstacles that come into play when I want to fulfill a dream? What should I do?**

Pray together that God's dreams would become your own. Pray that your family would see obstacles as an opportunity for God and would learn to trust Him for the future.