Paul’s Vision for Help in Macedonia

(After dealing with church problems, a disagreement with a fellow-worker and being told “no” whenever he wants to go in a new direction Paul-the-missionary receives a clear vision as to where he needs to go next.)

Acts 15:36-16:10
There were many Christians in the Antioch church. Some of them were from Jewish families and some were from Gentile families, but they all loved God.

Paul and Barnabas were two missionaries that were members of the Antioch church.

The Stoning of Stephen - Acts 6:8-8:1  www.missionbibleclass.org
Once, some men from Jerusalem came to Antioch and told the Christians that Gentiles could not become Christians unless they followed Jewish rules first. But Paul and Barnabas said this was not true. They travelled to Jerusalem and talked to the church leaders there about it. The Jerusalem leaders sent a letter back to Antioch to tell them that Paul and Barnabas were right. Gentile Christians did not have to follow all of the Jewish rules to become Christians. But they did say that it was very important to have peace so that Jews and Gentiles would listen to each other when they talked about God. The letter said that the Gentile Christians should follow some of the Jewish customs so they would not offend the Jews that wanted to learn about Jesus. The church in Antioch thought this was a very good idea and agreed.
After some time had passed Paul began to think about all of the people he and Barnabas had visited on their 1st Missionary Journey. When Paul asked Barnabas to go on a 2nd Missionary Journey with him Barnabas wanted to take his cousin John Mark. Paul remembered how John Mark had deserted them when they were on the 1st Journey. He did not want him to come again. Paul and Barnabas had a very big disagreement about this.
Since they could not agree, Barnabas took John Mark and sailed to Cyprus to encourage the churches there. Paul took another worker called Silas and began travelling through Syria and Cilicia.
On this 2nd Missionary Journey, Paul visited some of the churches he had started on his 1st Journey. The Christians were encouraged when they saw Paul.

Macedonian Vision   Acts 15:36-16:10   www.missionbibleclass.org
In the city of Lystra, Paul met a young man named Timothy. Ever since he was a little boy, Timothy's mother and grandmother had taught him about God. Paul invited Timothy to join him on his missionary journey so he did.
After Paul, Silas, and Timothy left Lystra, they travelled about teaching people about Jesus. They tried to enter Asia but the Holy Spirit prevented them.
Later, Paul tried to lead the group into Bithynia but he was stopped by the Holy Spirit once again. Paul was a missionary and wanted to go where God wanted him to go but the Spirit kept saying “no.” Paul stopped in the city of Troas to decide what he should do next.

Macedonian Vision   Acts 15:36-16:10

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Finally, in Troas, Paul received an answer from God. A man came to him in a vision. The man in the vision was from Macedonia and he stood and begged Paul saying, "come to Macedonia and help us."
The next morning Paul told his travel companions the good news that they were going to Macedonia. Everyone prepared for the trip. There would be many adventures ahead of them.

Macedonian Vision   Acts 15:36-16:10   www.missionbibleclass.org
Macedonia was part of what is now known as Europe. Paul was the first missionary ever recorded as taking the Good News of Jesus to Europe. Paul was a missionary that was willing to go where God wanted him to go.

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1. Cover

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Acts 15:36-16:10

2. There were many Christians in the Antioch church. Some of them were from Jewish families and some were from Gentile families but they all loved God. Paul and Barnabas were two missionaries that were members of the Antioch church.

3. Once, some men from Jerusalem came to Antioch and told the Christians that Gentiles could not become Christians unless they followed Jewish rules first. But Paul and Barnabas said this was not true. They travelled to Jerusalem and talked to the church leaders there about it. The Jerusalem leaders sent a letter back to Antioch to tell them that Paul and Barnabas were right. Gentile Christians did not have to follow all of the Jewish rules to become Christians. But they did say that it was very important to have peace so that Jews and Gentiles would listen to each other when they talked about God. The letter said that the Gentile Christians should follow some of the Jewish customs so they would not offend the Jews that wanted to learn about Jesus. The church in Antioch thought this was a very good idea and agreed.

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Paul remembered how John Mark had deserted them when they were on the 1st Journey. He did not want him to come again. Paul and Barnabas had a very big disagreement about this.

5. Since they could not agree Barnabas took John Mark and sailed to Cyprus to encourage the churches there. Paul took another worker called Silas and began travelling through Syria and Cilicia.

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