



Paul Visits Macedonia

Lesson Aim: To know the Holy Spirit can lead us in specific ways.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Saves Us

THE WORD

What He Has Done: The Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia.

Scripture Focus: Acts 16:6-10; Galatians 5:25; John 16:7-15 **Key Verse:** Acts 16:10

Christ Connection: Isaiah 6:8

THE WAY

The Big Question: Have you ever sensed the Holy Spirit urging you to do something?

UNIT 3 FOCUS VERSE

"Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 3:8-9

Unit 3: The Promise of Salvation			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim*
12	Paul Visits Macedonia, Acts 16:6-10; Galatians 5:25; John 16:7-15	The Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia.	To know the Holy Spirit can lead us in specific ways.
13	Paul and Lydia, Acts 16:12-15; Ephesians 2:8-9	God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.	To know God opens our hearts to respond to Him.
14	Paul, Silas, and the Jailer Acts 16:22-34; 1 Peter 3:13-18	God used Paul, Silas, and an earthquake to spread the gospel.	To know God uses all things in the spreading of the gospel.
15	The Resurrection: New Life, Matthew 28:1-7; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-22, 51-52, 55-58	God raised Jesus from the dead.	To understand the resurrection and its relevance today.
16	Priscilla and Aquila, Acts 18:1-6, 9-11, 24-26; Romans 16:3-5; 12:4-8	God brought Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila together to build up the church.	To see how God gives us different key roles in the community of believers.

LEADER'S ENCOURAGEMENT This week, read Philippians 4:4-9. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for leading us with Your Holy Spirit. Help the students better understand how they can follow Your lead in their daily walk. Amen."

Lesson Aims are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

Take Home Elements: The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

Leader's Tip: For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

Suggestion: Choose a game that focuses on ideas such as the Holy Spirit, listening, leading, following, travel, or navigating.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: SECRET LEADER

Purpose: To open discussion related to following and leading.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Students sit or stand in a circle.
2. Ask for a volunteer. The volunteer leaves the room while the other students choose a leader.
3. Bring the volunteer back in the room and have him or her stand in the middle of the circle.
4. On your signal, the leader starts a series of motions (e.g. clapping, itching, stamping feet, pounding legs, waving) while the other students follow while being careful to not watch the leader directly. The volunteer gets three guesses as to who the leader is. If the volunteer is taking too long, you may stop play and ask them to make their guesses.
5. When the volunteer correctly guesses the leader or they've used their three guesses, a new volunteer is chosen and the game continues.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: BLINDFOLDED OBSTACLE COURSE

Purpose: To open discussion related to listening for the Holy Spirit's leading.

Supplies: Safety cones, floor tape, chairs, or other items to create the obstacle course, stopwatch, blindfold

Preparation: Create an obstacle course with safety cones, floor tape, chairs, or other items

Directions:

1. Divide the group into two teams with the same number of students. If you have an odd number of students, choose one student to play twice on the smaller team. If you have a large group, you may have each team choose 4-6 students to represent them in the game.
2. Have teams decide who will go first. One team watches while the other team plays.
3. Team 1 lines up at the beginning of the obstacle course. The first person in line is the leader. The second person in line is the follower. The follower puts on the blindfold.
4. On your signal, start the timer. The follower must listen to the directions of the leader as he or she guides the follower through the course. When the follower gets to the end of the course, he or she removes the blindfold and becomes the leader for the next follower. The leader runs to the end of the line so he or she can have a turn as the last follower.
5. Play continues until every team member has had a turn as a leader and a follow.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 with Team 2.
7. The team with the shortest time wins.



The God who saves us

THE WORSHIP

Note to Leader: The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

Ideas for Optional Visuals: _____

Today, we worship the God who saves us. In today's story, we will learn the Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia where he told people about the God who saves us. Let's give thanks to Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us and to lead us. Let's pray together that God will help us become more aware of His presence and more sensitive to His leading.

Read Unit 3 Focus Verse: 1 Peter 3:8-9.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on the God who saves us.



Read Psalm 143:8-10.



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence:
"Lord, we worship You for _____."



The Holy Spirit led Paul

THE WORD Presentation

Note to Leader: Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: Use the map at the end of this Leader's Guide to point out Macedonia (a region covering present-day Northern and Central Greece, the Republic of Macedonia, and southeast Albania) and to track Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-18:22).

Option 2: _____



TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.

Last time, we learned Barnabas encouraged Paul and many believers. He traveled with Paul on what is now known as Paul's first missionary journey. Today, we will see how the Holy Spirit led Paul to Macedonia to tell people about Jesus. This took place on his second missionary journey.

After Paul and Barnabas returned from their first journey, they decided to separate (Acts 15:37-40). Paul chose to take Silas with him and the two went together to Derbe and Lystra where they met Timothy (Acts 16:1-5). Paul invited him to come with them. They went from town to town telling the people about Jesus and delivering instructions from the church leaders in Jerusalem. The church grew stronger and many more people joined. Paul, Silas, and Timothy traveled to the new churches to strengthen them.

The leader or a student reads Acts 16:6-10.

- The Holy Spirit led Paul, Silas, and Timothy in their travels. In these verses, we don't know the exact circumstances, but we see how the Spirit led by preventing them from entering some countries. They may have wondered why but, they trusted God and continued on their journey.
- Then, God gave Paul a vision to go to Macedonia. Paul's plan had been to revisit the towns where they had already preached God's word but God was leading them to a new place. Again, they were faithful and followed God's leading.
- Paul used his gifts of preaching and teaching to serve God. Watch for the Holy Spirit to lead you to use your interests and gifts. Think about how God might you use your special gifts and talents to serve Him and point others to Him.

THE WORD Presentation *continued*

The leader or a student reads Galatians 5:25.

- Paul challenges us to follow the Spirit's leading, to "stay in step with the Spirit." Here are three things Paul did during his life that can help you follow the Spirit's leading:
 - **Prayer** builds our relationship with God by keeping our hearts and minds focused on Him and His will for our lives. Prayer helps us to be more aware of His presence so we know where He is leading us. If you are not sure what to say when you pray, say the prayer Jesus taught us. We know it as "The Lord's Prayer." Read Matthew 6:9-13.
 - **Reading the Bible** shows you the kinds of things the Holy Spirit might lead you to do such as helping others, forgiving, telling people about Jesus, and praying. Reading the Bible also helps you to know God's promises to strengthen you in your faith.
 - **Listening** to others who love Jesus helps us in our spiritual journey. With the Holy Spirit in their hearts, they can help you know God's leading and encourage you in it. They can help you remember to do what is right in God's eyes. You and your family and friends can remind each other of who God is and what He has done, and you can help each other know and follow the Spirit's leading.

The leader or a student reads John 16:7-15.

- Jesus is talking to the disciples on the night before He is crucified. They are heartbroken, confused, and possibly afraid.
- Jesus wanted them to know He would send a Helper to guide them through life. That Helper is the Holy Spirit. He dwells within everyone who believes in Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit's purpose is to convict people of their sin and guide them into all truth. It is through the Holy Spirit that Jesus communicates with us.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the whole story of God, what's the connection between this New Testament story and the Old Testament?

- Paul was willing to go wherever God led him. Over 700 years earlier, Isaiah spoke about volunteering to be sent by God.
 - The leader or a student reads aloud Isaiah 6:8.



THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

Have you ever sensed the Holy Spirit urging you to do something?



THE WAY Discussion



GETTING STARTED Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



READ IT AGAIN

Read Acts 16:6-10; Galatians 5:25; John 16:7-15 silently or aloud.

How did the Holy Spirit lead Paul, Silas, and Timothy in their travels?

What vision did Paul have? What did he and his companions conclude?

What does it mean to “keep in step with the Spirit”? How can we do that?

Why did Jesus send us the Holy Spirit?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

Have you ever sensed the Holy Spirit urging you to do something?



TAKE ACTION Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

Have you ever felt God leading you somewhere far away to serve Him?

When has the Holy Spirit led you to a new opportunity by closing the door to something else?

Do we always know the reasons for God's decisions? Is it difficult to obey God when we do not understand Him? How can the Holy Spirit help us to be faithful?

What are three things you can do to be more aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in your daily life?

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit SO THAT others might _____.**



PRAY Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

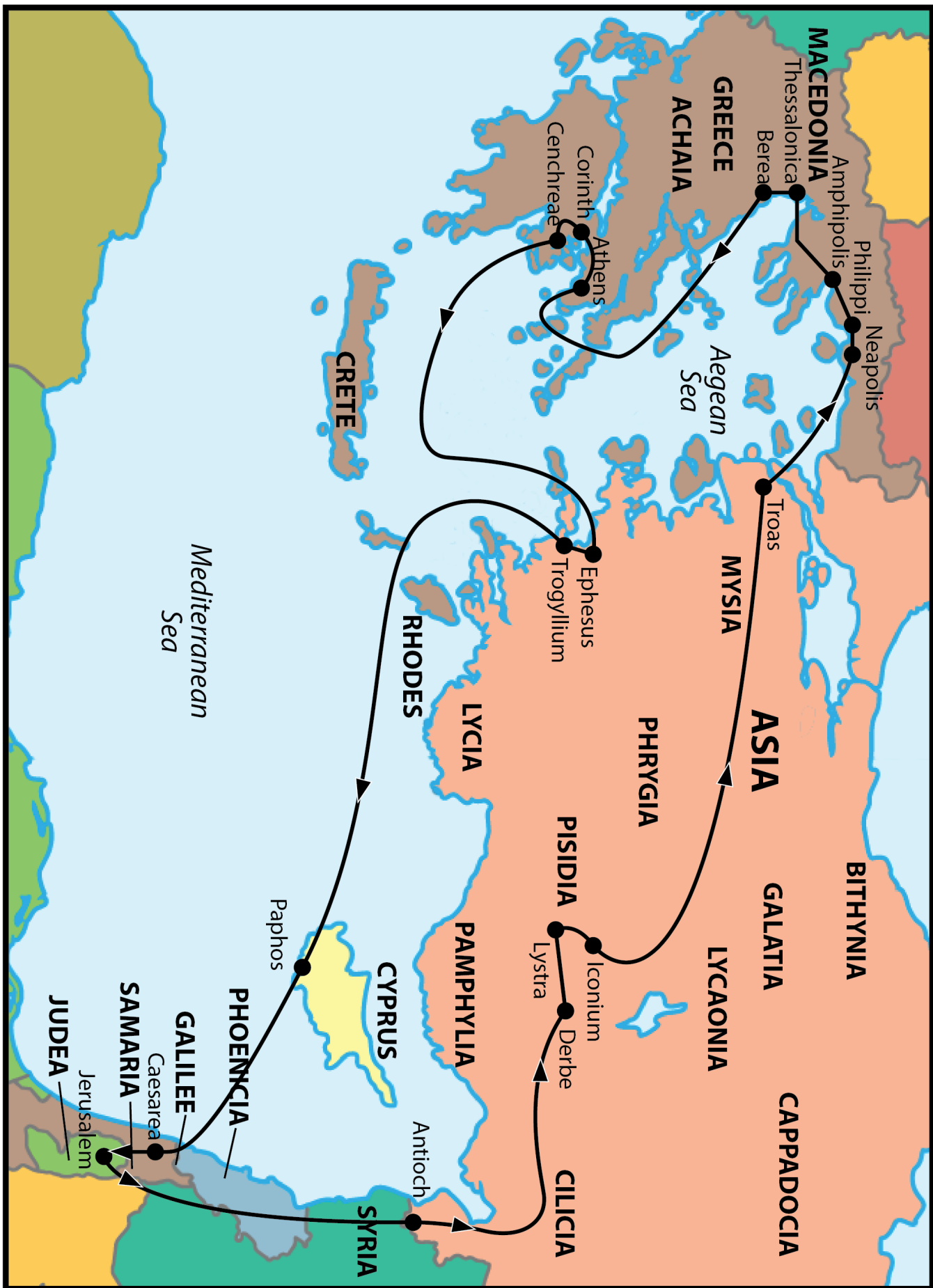
Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #12 and Journal Entry #12. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #12.

PAUL'S SECOND JOURNEY



PROPHETS & PROMISES

JOURNAL ENTRY #12

Paul Visits Macedonia

Acts 16:6-10; Galatians 5:25; John 16:7-15

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

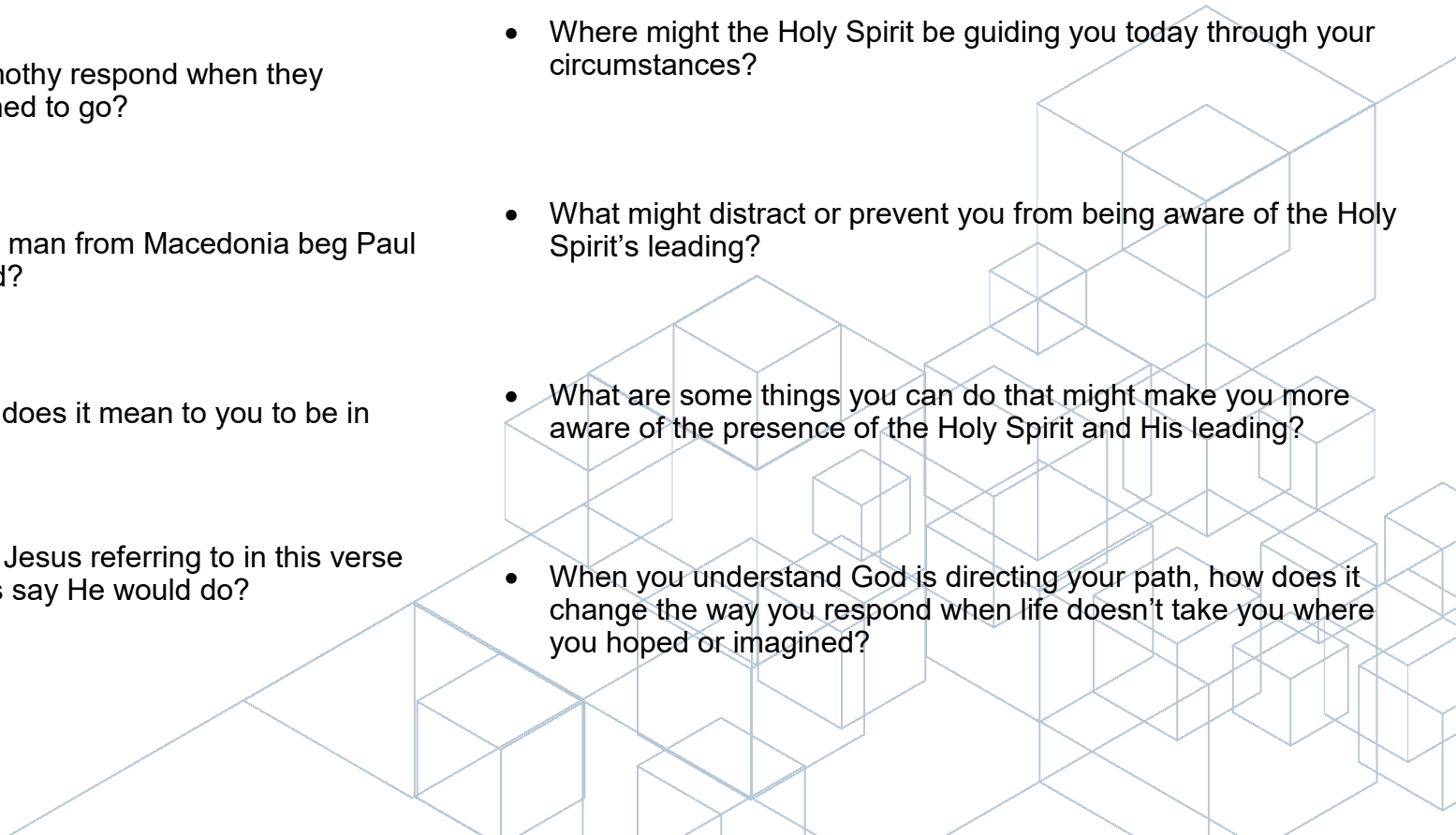
- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read Acts 16:6-10.**
- How did Paul, Silas, and Timothy respond when they couldn't go where they planned to go?
- In Paul's vision, what did the man from Macedonia beg Paul to do? How did Paul respond?
- **Read Galatians 5:25.** What does it mean to you to be in step with the Spirit?
- **Read John 16:7-15.** Who is Jesus referring to in this verse (John 16:7)? What did Jesus say He would do?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- How do you think this part of Paul, Silas, and Timothy's journey shaped their faith?
- How does John 16:7-15 encourage you?
- What have you learned about the Holy Spirit through this study?

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Where might the Holy Spirit be guiding you today through your circumstances?
- What might distract or prevent you from being aware of the Holy Spirit's leading?
- What are some things you can do that might make you more aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit and His leading?
- When you understand God is directing your path, how does it change the way you respond when life doesn't take you where you hoped or imagined?



Action Card #12/P&P

PAUL VISITS MACEDONIA

ACTS 16:6-10; GALATIANS 5:25; JOHN 16:7-15

THE *HOLY SPIRIT* LEADS PAUL
TO MACEDONIA.

WE ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW
THE *HOLY SPIRIT'S* LEADING.

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