

# Behavioral

## **Lesson 7**

### **Macedonian Call**

# Behaviors

Begin with  
Prayer

## Lesson 7

### Macedonian Call

**Acts 16:6-15**

#### Memory Verse

**Readily recognize what He wants from you.  
Romans 12:2 (The Message)**

#### Lesson Goals

Learn that God wants you to know His voice.  
Learn that God closes and opens doors.  
Learn that God has a plan.

#### Behavior Focus Scripture

**Readily recognize what He wants from you. Quickly respond to it.  
Romans 12:2 (The Message)**

#### Bible Story

**Read Acts 16:6-15 aloud.**

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

#### Welcome

Have your parents ever said “no,” when you wanted to go somewhere? Has God ever said, “no,” to you? In today’s story God closes a door. Let’s see what happens.

Paul and Barnabas had separated. Paul is now traveling with Silas. Timothy joins them. The Bible tells us that when “they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia.” We are not told the reason that they were **forbidden to go**. It is possible the people were not ready. We do know that they were certain it was **God’s voice** that led them. They knew that **God had closed that door** to them.

Next they tried to go to Bithynia but the Spirit didn’t let them go there either. Again we are not told the reason **they are forbidden**. Again, God seems to have **closed a door** to them. But they were obedient and waited for God’s direction. They may have wondered what **God’s plan** was for them. They knew that they had been called. They knew they were to tell other about Jesus.

Paul and his companions did not worry about the places God did not allow them to visit. They did not understand **God’s plan** for them. But, they waited for God to tell them where to go next.

So they went to Troas. There Paul had a vision. In the vision a man from Macedonia asked him to come to Macedonia. After seeing the vision Paul was certain that God was calling them to go to Macedonia. (Acts 16:6-10) An **open door** from God does not require any debate. When **God calls** an immediate response is required.

The Bible says, “immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia.” (Acts 16:10) Luke is added to Paul’s companions. The “we” in verse 10 indicates that it is here that Luke joins them.

Paul and his companions left Troas. They went through Samothrace. Next they went through Neapolis. Then they traveled to Philippi. Philippi was an important city in Macedonia. Its location connected the eastern area with Italy. They were in Philippi for a few days. We are not told what happened during that time. But we can imagine that again

Week 7

Review:  
Romans 12:1-3  
(The Message)

they waited for **God's voice** to instruct them.

Paul and his companions went out by the riverside on the Sabbath. The **open door** was at a riverside. The women were having a prayer meeting. Again Paul and his companions did not question why they were not to go to the men as the culture of the day would have led them to do. Paul and his companions just preached to the women. Paul spoke to them and a woman named Lydia believed and was baptized. Lydia was a business-woman. She sold purple cloth. Lydia invited Paul and his companions to stay in her home. (Acts 16:14-15) Paul and his companions had been faithful to seek God and to obey God. **God's plan** was fulfilled. The women's prayer meeting **opened the door** for ministry.

**Do you know Jesus?** Paul and his companions went to Philippi to tell people about Jesus. It seems that at first God kept **closing the doors**. They had to wait for God to **open a door**. Then God did not tell them to go to a temple or a building. God sent them to a river. They didn't go to the city leaders. They went to preach to women. Their faithfulness resulted in Lydia's conversion. Her heart was ready. She believed. Would you like to know Jesus?

**Pray this prayer:** Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that He has risen from the dead; and because He lives I can have a personal relationship with you. Please forgive my sins. Please come be a part of my life and help me to **recognize your voice**. Help me to wait on you at the **closed doors** and to guide me through the **open doors**.

#### Review:

1. **How did Paul know where to go?** (God opened and closed the doors)
2. **How did he know to go to Macedonia?** (a vision)
3. **How did Paul and his companions respond to the vision?** (immediately went to Macedonia)
4. **Explain that even though God leads us places, the response of people may not be immediate.** Even though God gave Paul a vision to go to Macedonia, they did not immediately get a response from the people. Paul and his companions probably spent time in prayer waiting for God to lead them to the people who needed to hear his message.

#### Pray:

Pray that God will help you know His voice.  
Pray that God will help you trust His plan.

#### Challenge:

There are some voices we know because they are familiar to us like the voice of our mother or a teacher. God wants us to **recognize His voice**. The way we can do that is to spend time with Him. We must read the Bible, pray and go to Bible study. When we do those things, then **God's voice** becomes familiar. Then we must also learn to trust God when He **opens or closes a door**. We don't always see the big picture. Like with a piece of cloth that is embroidered or a tapestry, we see only part of the picture. If you look at the underside of a piece of cloth that has been embroidered you see the many pieces of thread that it took to create the final picture. We only see a part of what God is doing. We have to trust Him with the final picture. Write any changes in behavior or attitude towards **open and closed doors** in your prayer journal.

#### Application:

Work on **recognizing God voice**. Look for the **open doors**. Trust God with the **closed doors**.

#### Planning Ahead:

Paul and Silas in Jail  
Acts 16: 16-40

End with  
Prayer

Hands-on Activities  
For  
Macedonian Call

Review: Romans 12:1-3 (The Message). Create cards with portions of the verse. Bring small mega phones or create them. Have the children use the mega phones to say the verse as they review.

Prayer journal: Work on your prayer journal. Write down what God has said to you about knowing His voice. Are you spending more time with Him?. What has he said about open and closed doors. Write down what you need to change. Ask God to help you.

Identify the voice. Have the children stand with their backs to each other. Make them take five steps away from each other. Ask one child to say the memory verse. Ask if anyone from the other group can identify the person who said the verse. Do this several times. Tell the children that we know God's voice when we spend time with Him. Encourage the children to read their Bible and pray daily.

Play a game. The object of the game is to stand behind a child with a sign (which they can't see) that says "Open Door," or be safe in their line. Assign four children to hold a piece of paper which no one else can see. Two will say, "Open Door." Two will say, "Closed Door." They are to persuade the rest of the class to stand behind them and join their group. Divide the rest of the class into four groups. Have the groups stand in a line facing the children with the pieces of paper (which they cannot see). Group One will stand facing Child One (who is holding one piece of paper). From the first four lines each child at the head of each group must decide whether they want to go stand behind the child with the piece of paper or stay in their line. Once everyone has decided reveal the "open and closed doors." Talk about what it is like not to know what choice to make. Tell the children to read the Bible and pray daily so that they will know what God wants them to do.

Create a game set for each child. Use cards to write down five good things and five bad things. Write "God has a plan." on five cards.

Good things: Won a game; got clothes; got a gift; helped a friend; cleaned my room

Bad things: Lost a game, lost money; got in trouble; failed a test; got grounded

Have the kids order the cards; one bad thing, one good thing, God has a plan.

Have them read aloud. Example: Lost money, got a gift, God has a plan.

Talk about how things work together for good (Romans 8:28) because God has a plan.

Read this poem to the children. Talk about trusting God even when He closes doors. Remind the children that God has a plan.

Today, God closed a door before me.

And I, like a thwarted child

Kicked against it in anger,

Not knowing

That He had quietly

Opened a door behind me.

**Readily recognize  
what He wants  
from you.  
Romans 12:2  
(The Message)**

## **Romans 12: 1-3 (The Message)**

**So here's what I want you to do,  
God helping you:**

**Take your everyday, ordinary life—  
your sleeping, eating,  
going-to-work, and walking-around life—and  
place it before God as an offering.**

**Embracing what God does for you  
is the best thing you can do for him.**

**Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture  
that you fit into it without even thinking.**

**Instead, fix your attention on God.**

**You'll be changed from the inside out.**

**Readily recognize what he wants from you, and  
quickly respond to it.**

**Unlike the culture around you,  
always dragging you down to its level of immaturity,**

**God brings the best out of you,**

**develops well-formed maturity in you.**

**I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude**

**for all that God has given me,**

**and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you.**

**Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace,  
it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves  
as people who are bringing this goodness to God.**

**No, God brings it all to you.**

**The only accurate way to understand ourselves  
is by what God is and by what he does for us,  
not by what we are and what we do for him.**

**Romans 12: 1-3 The Message**