

April 28

April 28: Prayerfully Study Acts 16:1-5

“Paul went on also to Derbe and to Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers and sisters in Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and had him circumcised because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went from town to town, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily.”

New Generations

April 28

1 | Paul enfolds Timothy into his work for God (v. 1). Who are SHPC young people that you are impressed by? How can you get to know younger people better? What are ways you can prayerfully support those in our congregation and outside of it?

2 | Paul expects requirements of his mission partner, Timothy, so as not to offend Jewish-Christian sensibilities (v. 3). What types of expectations should we meet as we partner in ministry with The Restoration House (therestorationhouse.net)? They began their new Olive Tree ministry, thanks in part to SHPC prayers and financial giving, so that they could enhance Knoxville's young children with high-quality education. Why would it be important to deeply invest time, energy, and education to giving very young children this experience? How does it change a family in doing so?

3 | New challenges to the church require new leadership. Paul recruited Timothy to help, following the example of Jesus recruiting the original disciples. Olive Tree's teachers and staff are completing their first year of the new school. How are you led to intercede for them? How could you help? Enhancements to SHPC properties hope to equip us for ministries with a new generation. How are you being led to pray for those who will come after us? May 5th is Commitment Sunday, have you prayed about your financial gift?

4 | Timothy joined Paul and Silas in Lystra strengthening the Church from town to town (v. 4). This fulfills how Jesus called believers to go and make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to follow Christ's ways (Mt. 28:19-20). We are to share lessons of faith with those who come after us. What specific lessons are important to pass along to our youth and young adults? To those mothers and their children at TRH/Olive Tree? How might you share lessons of faith this week?

5 | In Acts 16:5, the Church was strengthened in the faith and grew in numbers daily! When have you seen the Church grow and what do you attribute it to? What might strengthen SHPC in our capital campaign as we Reach, Restore, and Connect? Who might you pray for and possibly invite to be a part of something going on at SHPC?
