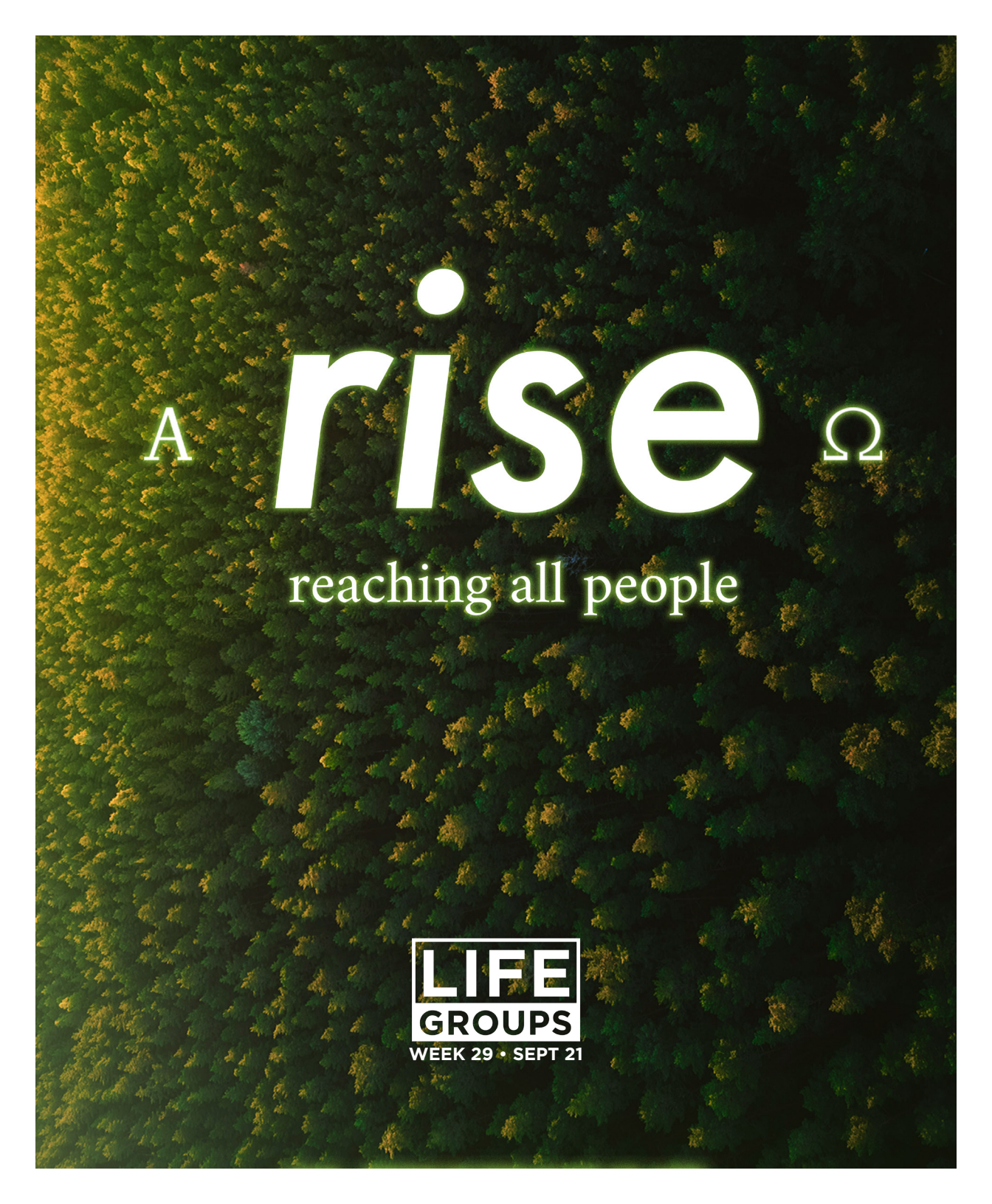




A *rise* Ω

reaching all people



WEEK 29 • SEPT 21

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Has something not gone as you had planned? What was it? How did you react?

BACKGROUND

Acts 16:1-15 brings us three key lessons. First, we have Paul meeting Timothy for the first time, hearing how well people spoke of him and then choosing to bring him along on his second missionary journey. But before Paul could take Timothy with him, he had to be circumcised. This was not a mandate or official requirement, but instead, it was for the purpose of the Gospel being shared with those who knew that Timothy's father was Greek and mother Jewish. Circumcision was important to those that Paul and Timothy would be sharing the Gospel with.

Second, along Paul and Timothy's travels, the Holy Spirit kept them from going to various places – province of Asia and Bithynia. We are not told how the Spirit kept them from going, but that their plans did not come to fruition. They somehow came to a group conclusion that those doors were shut. We are then told of Paul's vision of a Macedonian man begging for them to help. From this, they made the decision to have them all leave to go to Macedonia and spread the Gospel. It was their dependency on the Spirit to guide them each step of the way.

Third, we learn how God was doing His work through Paul and Timothy as they remained faithful in telling people about Jesus. They traveled to Philippi (within the district of Macedonia), stayed there for several days, and then sought a place of prayer outside the city. It was along side a river that they came upon a group of woman, where they sat down and began to speak to them. Unknown to Paul and Timothy, one of the women was a worshiper of God and had already had her heart opened by the Lord to receive Paul's message and be baptized. Only God can change the heart of a person so that they might believe.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Acts 16:4-5

As they went on their way through the cities, 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 they increased in numbers daily.

READ: Acts 16:1-15



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?
2. What was Paul and Timothy's main purpose in traveling (v. 4)?
3. To which region did the Holy Spirit prevent Paul and Timothy from traveling?
4. Who opened Lydia's heart to Paul's message?



HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. What was the significance of Timothy's circumcision?
2. How did Paul and Timothy know where they needed to travel?
3. What drew Paul and Timothy to sit with the women at the river and to speak with them?

 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What things do we do or not do out of respect for others' comfort or spiritual state?
2. What does it look like to follow God's plan?
3. What does it look like to do our part and allow God to do His in preparing people's hearts?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 16:4-5
As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)