

Beyond

- **Culture shock: What is the most different culture you've ever experienced, from your own?**
- **When was the last time your plans suddenly changed?**

As the Apostle Paul and others were spreading the good news of Jesus, they were eager to continue their missionary journey into Asia to reach the people there. Yet, they are unexpectedly unable to enter the region and instead redirected to Macedonia.

Read Acts 16:6-10

- **What was blocking the missionaries from entering Asia? How did they handle the change of plans?**
- **Have you ever had your heart set on something, only to have it changed? What was it like navigating that disappointment or change?**

As the missionary team continues on their journey, we see that their new plan into Macedonia bears much fruit. As they travel to different areas, they use the culture/understandings of the people to share the unchanging message of Jesus. One of the most significant examples of this is Paul's message to those at a place called Areopagus, also known as Mars Hill.

Read Acts 17:22-28

- **How does the Apostle Paul use the culture of the people to share Jesus with those at Mars Hill? What does this teach us about sharing the Gospel with people of different cultures and/or different beliefs?**
- **What would it look like to reach the people in your everyday settings with the message of Jesus, using what they valued, cared about, and found important?**

As we prepare as a church to celebrate our 21st birthday, we have the opportunity to exercise generosity through our Beyond campaign. This campaign is a great reminder to continue to be outwardly focused as a church, and a reminder of how God uses the generosity of people to further His work in other places. It is reminiscent of how the Apostle Paul was supported in many of his missionary journeys by churches who were far from the areas he was reaching.

Read Philippians 4:14-17

- **How did the Philippians church partner with the Apostle Paul in his ministry? What would lead the Philippians to sacrifice for Paul's ongoing mission, after their church had already been established?**
- **While financial gifts are important in our mission of reaching Seattle, what are some other ways that you can partner with the Pointe church?**