

ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

The Leading of God
Acts 16:1-19

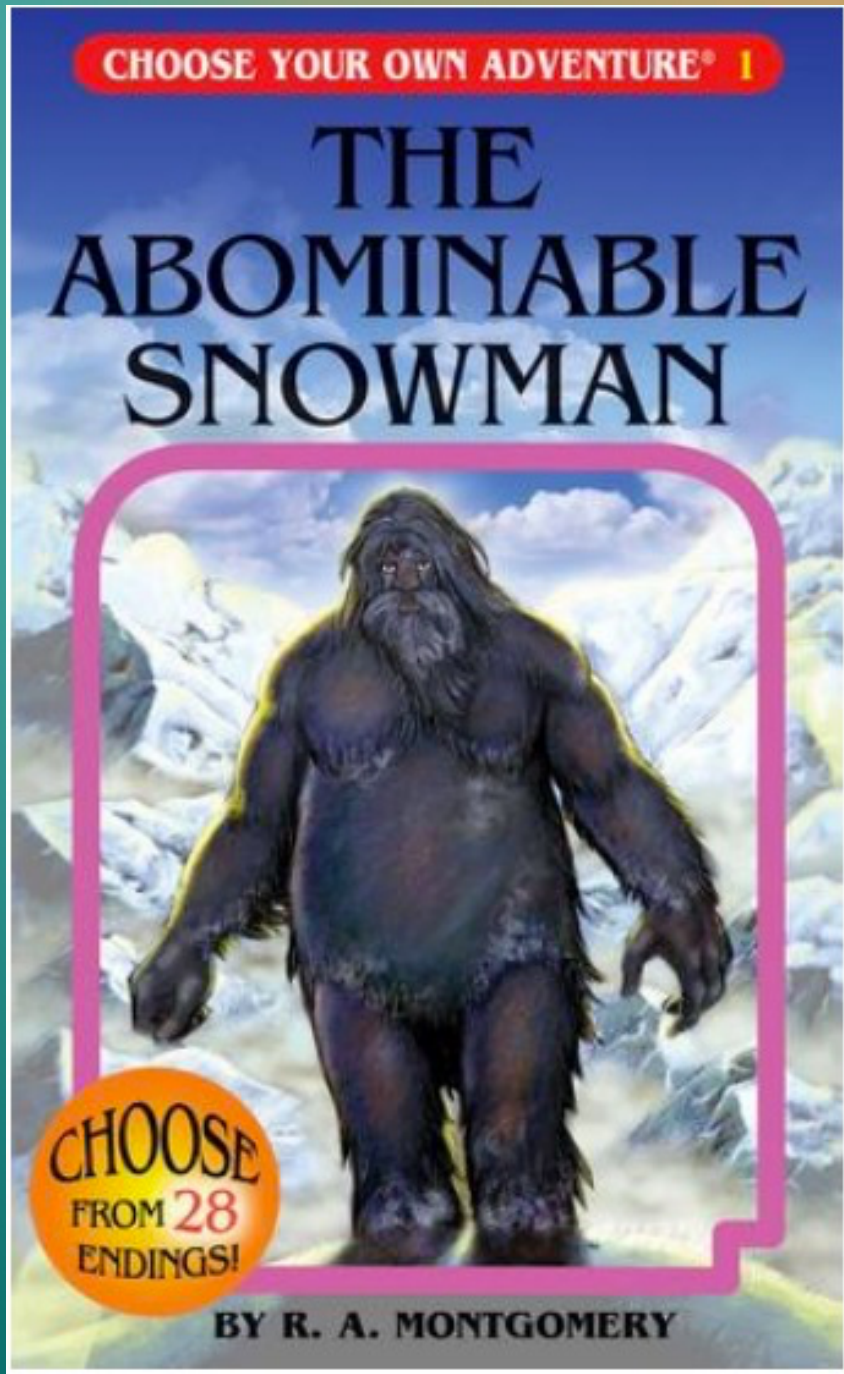
Acts 16:1-18

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named **Timothy**, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ 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. ⁵ So **the churches were strengthened in the faith**, and they increased in numbers daily.

⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been **forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the **Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.** ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, **concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.**

¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a **place of prayer**, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed (“convinced through argument”) upon us.

¹⁶ As we were going to the **place of prayer**, we were met by a slave girl (12 years old orphan) who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you **THE** way of salvation.” ¹⁸ And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.



How God Leads

Worship

“Place of Prayer”
Know God’s Voice

**Instead of just what
elevates me**

**For us this means
intimacy with Jesus**

How God Leads

Worship

Community

“Place of Prayer”
Know God’s Voice

Timothy with Paul
“*They* went...”

Instead of just what
elevates me

Instead of focusing
on my own wisdom

For us this means
intimacy with Jesus

For us this means
engaging relationally

How God Leads

Worship

Community

Along the Way

“Place of Prayer”
Know God’s Voice

Timothy with Paul
“*They* went...”

“*They went...*”
“as we were going”

Instead of just what
elevates me

Instead of focusing
on my own wisdom

**Instead of just sitting
and waiting**

For us this means
intimacy with Jesus

For us this means
engaging relationally

For us this means
loving outward now

“Love, Hope, Happiness.

Whatever your destination, there’s a million beautiful ever-changing ways to get us there.”

Find your True North
Your New Compass

Where God Leads

Timothy

Teenage spiritual hybrid;

Would go with and be disciplined by Paul

Lydia

Disenfranchised yet connected insider;

Would host the church plant

Slave Girl

Orphan girl used by people and demons;

Set free from spirits and abusers

God always leads us beyond what is comfortable as he propels us to love the “needy” in word and deed.

Why God Leads

“Today I want to talk about purpose. But I’m not here to give you the standard commencement about finding your purpose. We’re millennials. We’ll try to do that instinctively. Instead, I’m here to tell you finding your purpose isn’t enough. The challenge for our generation is creating a world where everyone has a sense of purpose.

One of my favorite stories is when John F Kennedy visited the NASA space center, he saw a janitor carrying a broom and he walked over and asked what he was doing. The janitor responded: “Mr. President, I’m helping put a man on the moon”.

Purpose is that sense that we are part of something bigger than ourselves, that we are needed, that we have something better ahead to work for. Purpose is what creates true happiness.”

Zuckerberg’s Harvard Commencement Speech – May 25, 2017

Maybe God's goal for our lives isn't to make us comfortable.

⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

“Where” and “Who” are only a product of “Why”

Luke 22:41-44

And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” ⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

So what do I do?

“Love God and do as you please”
Augustine

Worship
Community
Movement

“Who do you want to love through me today?”