

ACTS

LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 17:1-15

February 25, 2024

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

In the past, when it has come up in conversation that you are a Christian, what different sorts of reactions have people had to you?

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

Last week, we read how Paul and his team followed the leading of the Holy Spirit. They traveled through Macedonia where they met Lydia - were imprisoned - met the Philippian jailer's family and witnessed their conversion. Now, we watch as Paul continues on his journey to demonstrate that in every way, faith in Jesus Christ is the only way. This message will continue to go forth and - as a result - opposition will continue to increase.

Have someone in your group read **Acts 17:1-9**

BUILD

Engage the Scripture

Question 1: How serious should the church be in the teaching of God's Word?

- Can church traditions get in the way of the teaching of God's Word? If so, how?
- Do you think that First Baptist leans more toward teaching of God's Word or church traditions?

Question 2: In **Acts 17:1-3**, what can we learn from Paul's example on how he preached the Word in Thessalonica?

Question 3: In **verse 4**, what is the result of Paul's preaching?

- In **verse 5**, How did the majority of the Jews feel about the response to Paul's preaching?
- Why do you think some of the Jews were jealous?
- Is it normal for some people to get upset by the preaching of God's Word?

Question 4: Why do you think some of the Jews chose to "**build an army**" against Paul and Silas?

- Do we see "**army building**" in the church today? Why?

Question 5: In **verse 6**, What did the people mean when they said, "**These men who have turned the world upside down...**"?

- How can FBC Portland turn our church world "**upside down**"?
 - What will be the reaction from church members if their "**world is turned upside down**"?

Question 6: In **verse 7**, the Jews in Thessalonica brought this charge against Paul and friends, ***“they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.”***

- What does it mean to live as if “there is another King, Jesus.”

Have someone in your group read **Acts 17:10-15**

Question 7: In **verse 11**, how are the people at the synagogue in Berea described?

- From the second half of **verse 11** how did they respond to the Word? *[they received the Word with eagerness; and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.]*
- After looking at the churches in Thessalonica and Berea, which one best describes First Baptist?

Question 8: What challenges you the most about the Berean approach to studying and verifying God's Word?

- What do you think would happen at First Baptist if we developed the same habits?

Question 9: In **verses 12-15**, how are the results of Paul's teaching - and the response to his teaching - in Berea different from what happened in Thessalonica?

- In what ways are they similar?

Question 10: In Berea, the people were willing to hear the Word and study the Word/ Scriptures for themselves.

- Why are both of these elements important for an individual's spiritual growth?
 - A church's spiritual growth?
- What happens if you have one without the other?

Billy Graham was once asked ***“If you had to live your life over again, what would you do differently?”*** Graham replied, ***“One of my great regrets is that I have not studied enough. I wish I had studied more and preached less. People have pressured me into speaking to groups, when I should have been studying and preparing.”***

BEGIN

Response and Prayer

How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blue Letter Bible: **[Acts 17](#)**: Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: **[Acts 17](#)**: Check out the QR code to learn more.

