

# The Book of Acts

## GROUP CURRICULUM

**SERMON** **TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN (ACTS 17:1-15)**

**DATE** **MAY 3, 2020**

<sup>1</sup> Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." <sup>4</sup> And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. <sup>5</sup> But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. <sup>6</sup> And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." <sup>8</sup> And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. <sup>9</sup> And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

<sup>10</sup> The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup> Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. <sup>12</sup> Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. <sup>13</sup> But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. <sup>14</sup> Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. <sup>15</sup> Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

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1. In the passage above, underline all the words recorded as spoken.
2. Look closely at verses 2-4. In order, list all the words that either end in “-ed” or “-ing.” What’s happening in these verses?
3. Read **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**. What clues in this text do you see that fill in some of the details of Paul’s first coming to them in the story in Acts that point to the truth that when it comes to the gospel, resistance is futile?
4. How many weeks did Paul and Silas reason with the people at Thessalonica? Why is this important to remember?
5. In the chart below, compare the characteristics and actions of the people in the two primary cities mentioned.

Thessalonian Jews	Berean Jews

6. Why do you think Paul, after so much difficulty, continues to choose the synagogues in the cities he visits as the first place he shares the gospel?
7. In what ways do you resemble the Berean believers in this time? In what ways do you differ?
8. Consider again **Acts 17:11-12**. What is the “therefore” pointing back to? Fill in the blanks to see the link.  
\_\_\_\_\_ therefore \_\_\_\_\_
9. When you listen to a speaker, which of the following describes you best:
  - I listen too easily, accepting all that is said without question.
  - I listen too critically, never really accepting much that is said.
  - I listen with balance, referring to the Bible and relying on prayer to make sure what I’ve heard is true.
10. Compare Paul’s mission fields with those of the present day. Are all fields alike? Is fruit always evident? Is the mission’s success measured by the exhilarating feelings of the missionary, or even by the popular reaction of the multitudes?