

Acts 17:1-15

December 7, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Bible Fact Check

Students will examine 10 statements about the New Testament and determine which are true and which are false by fact-checking them using their Bibles.

Items Needed:

- Bibles for each student (physical or digital)
- Pens or pencils
- Printed handouts of the statements below (one for each student)

How to play:

- 1.Distribute one handout to each student. Each student will work individually to examine the statements and the Scripture on the list.
- 2.Give them 10 minutes to fact check the list. Even if they think they know the answer, they must double check each statement!
- 3.Once the 10 minutes is up, discuss each statement, one by one, as a group.

Statements to Fact Check:

Saul/Paul was one of the twelve disciples. Matthew 10:2-4 False

The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples at the resurrection. Acts 2:1-4 False

Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. Matthew 14:13-21 True

The beatitudes are part of the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:1-12 True

James wrote Revelation when he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos.
Revelation 1:1 False

Romans was written to the believers in the city of Rome. Romans 1:7 True

Jesus was baptized in the Sea of Galilee. Matthew 3:13-17 False

Peter denied Jesus four times before the rooster crowed. Matthew 26:69-75
False

James was the first Christian martyr. Acts 7:54-60 False

Paul was a Pharisee. Acts 23:5-8 True

Why do you think it's important to read our Bibles ourselves and not only rely on others for information about the Bible?

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 17:1-15.

Take a minute to flip to the back of your Bible or look online for Paul's second missionary journey on a map and find Philippi and the towns mentioned here. What observations do you have from looking at this journey on a map?

How would you describe Paul and Silas's ministry in Thessalonica? Why did you choose these descriptors?

How did the Jews in Thessalonica respond like those in other places Paul and the other believers had visited?

Consider the accusations the Jews made against Paul and Silas. What was true about these accusations? What was false?

How were the Bereans different from many of the other Jews the believers encountered?

Why do you think Paul and Silas kept visiting the synagogue when they repeatedly met opposition from the Jews? What can we learn from this about the value of perseverance in sharing the gospel?

GOING DEEPER

What can we learn about God and His character from our reading today?

Where is it challenging for you to persevere in following Jesus daily?

APPLICATION

Why is humility important for followers of Jesus?

Why is it important that we examine the Bible for ourselves to learn what it says? How can we help one another do this?

Who do you need to persevere in sharing the gospel with?

PRAYER

Thank God for the courage of people like Paul and Silas, who share the gospel even when it's hard. Ask for God's help as you seek to get serious about studying the Bible, like the Bereans. Ask Him to show you how and where you should humbly examine things you hear about the Bible and Christianity.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue our study of Acts next week.

December 14, 2025 --- Acts 17:16-34

COMMENTARY

Acts 17:1-15

17:1 The next major stop on this second missionary journey was Thessalonica, where once again Paul began by visiting the local synagogue. He did this for three weeks (v. 2).

17:2-3 These verses give us insight into what Paul did when he visited synagogues. He reasoned ... from the Scriptures, identifying Jesus as Messiah and explaining the necessity of his death and resurrection. Among Jews, who revered the OT as God's Word, Paul used the Scriptures as the basis for his argumentation.

17:4-5 The conversion of a large number of God-fearing Greeks and leading women prompted jealousy among unbelieving Jews. Paul had encountered resistance before, but this was an orchestrated movement involving the roundup of wicked men from the marketplace. Jason was apparently one of the Thessalonians who had become a believer. He had welcomed Paul into his home (v. 7), so the mob attacked his house.

17:6 The phrase these men who have turned the world upside down may indicate that the Christians were mistaken for Jewish nationalists who had caused riots throughout the Roman Empire, but more likely it is an exaggerated reference to the unrest caused from town to town by Jews who opposed the Christian message.

17:7 Declaring that there was another king besides Caesar was a serious crime in the Roman Empire. This same false charge was used to condemn Jesus before Pilate (Lk 23:2).

17:8-9 The security bond from Jason probably promised he would send Paul and Silas away in order to guarantee the peace (cp. 1Th 2:14-18).

17:10 Paul and Silas were sent out of town at night, most likely in order to conceal their departure. Rather than deciding to play it safe from this point on, they traveled to Berea and made straight for the synagogue of the Jews. Would they be persecuted here also?

17:11 The Bereans exemplify the ideal stance of disciples: They were of more noble character and open to biblical instruction. They examined the Scriptures daily to see if the teachings were true.

17:12 Note again the international appeal of the gospel as Greek women and men came to faith.

17:13 Just as the appeal of Christ knows no borders (both Jews and Gentiles follow him), so too opposition to Christ knows no borders. Agitators from Thessalonica were unwilling to let faith flourish in Berea, and so they came there too, intent on thwarting the missionaries.

17:14 Paul set sail for Athens, while Silas and Timothy stayed behind and braved the opposition in Berea. This seems to indicate that Paul had become the focal point of Jewish opposition to the Christian message.

17:15 Athens was 195 miles from Berea.