

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

All Because of Jesus, Conquering Love, Lion and the Lamb, Living Hope

WELCOME

Have you read the entire Bible at least once? If you have, share how this experience affected your relationship with God and others. If you haven't, share what hinders you from doing so and what will you do to overcome that starting this week.

WORD

ACTS 17:1-15

Acts 17:1-5a; 10, 12

"Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, 'This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.'⁴And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women. ⁵But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; ¹⁰The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. ¹²Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men."

One can make an eternal impact in the lives of others by **studying** the Bible, **applying** what you learned, and **teaching** this to others. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** says that all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the **servant of God** may be equipped **for every good work**. This is why we need to study God's Word, not merely for knowledge but for our **transformation**.

STUDY GOD'S WORD

As we continue to study the Book of Acts, we follow Paul into **chapter 17** where he engages with all kinds of people that he encounters in his travels. The first place that Paul often went to in different cities was the synagogue. Here in Thessalonica, he gives an account of the Messiah, the promised deliverer of the Jews. Paul refers to the Old Testament to create a "*dialegomai*" (Greek) or dialogue from the Scriptures. He explains that the Christ had to suffer and rise again, as written in **Isaiah 53:5**, "But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed", and in **Psalms 16:10-11**, "¹⁰For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. ¹¹You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever." Obviously, Paul studied Scriptures and knew what it says about the promised Messiah.

Paul related ancient prophecy from Scripture to the historical event of Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection. Paul proclaimed Jesus with boldness, and trusted the Lord for the outcome. Indeed, Paul would preach in the synagogues and would get beaten up after, yet he would do the same thing in the next city they would go to. He was not discouraged even if he faced opposition. He knew what his calling was, to preach the good news first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. His calling was sure, and getting beaten up and opposed to his face did not stop him from continuing on his mission. When you have an impact, you will have an uproar. In the things you are doing for God, are you experiencing an "uproar"? Doing God's work might mean facing hostility from the very people you are trying to reach out to.

APPLY GOD'S WORD

We must also check our eagerness in approaching God's Word. Do you find the Bible bland and boring? Are you excited to encounter God in His Word? **Psalms 1:1-2** says, "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night." Though the Bible doesn't promise a life without problems it is a deep source which God uses to guide you in making wise decisions as you face life's difficulties and challenges. Apply

WORD (cont'd)

what you learn from the Bible in your own life even before you attempt to share it with others!

TEACH GOD'S WORD

The next group of people that Paul engages with in **Acts 17**, were the Bereans who were more open to Paul's teaching compared to the Thessalonians. In matters of discernment, we must be like the Jews in Berea who not only studied the Scriptures but also used this to examine what was being preached to them. In listening to preachers, we must have an unbiased eye and be open to the truth that a preacher teaches but always go back to Scripture and check for ourselves what we heard from the preacher against what the Bible says. Is this how we view the speakers we encounter? With an unbiased eye but a discerning spirit? We need to be careful because there are many false teachers and many more will arise.

Like Paul, are you willing to take a beating for something you believe in? It is so hard to teach what you do not

believe in, so make sure that you know why you believe what you believe and teach. One of the greatest hindrances to God using you to teach others about the Bible is your unwillingness to apply God's Word. Have a self-check, is your Bible knowledge making you arrogant? Beware that it does not, as **1 Corinthians 8:1** warns us, "Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies." As one grows deeper in the knowledge of Christ and the Bible, one should be more understanding, loving and humble. Is this true for you? The Thessalonians did not accept Paul's teaching the first time. And yet even with the initial resistance, a church was established in Thessalonica. Paul's commitment to teach God's Word no matter the personal consequence to him, eventually bore much fruit. The Thessalonians became an example of how lives surrendered to Jesus can become a vibrant church. We too can be an example of how a surrendered life that studies, applies, and teaches the Bible can be transformed because of Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. We are all called to **study, apply, and teach** others what we have learned from the Bible. Discuss in your group which part in this process you excel in, and where you need help to improve on.
2. Share one lesson from the Bible that you learned from your personal study the past week, and how you have applied it. If you haven't applied it, share how you will apply it this week.
3. To whom will you teach the Bible this week? After each person has shared, take time to pray for each other and for the people that individual group members want to share God's Word to.

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people you encounter this week at home, work, church, etc., using Scripture as a guide, ex., based on **Acts 17**, pray that people will be like the Bereans who study the Word of God and use it to filter what other preachers teach them or that like the Thessalonians, pray for those who have initially opposed you when you shared the gospel, to eventually surrender their lives to Christ and become part of a vibrant church. Keep sharing the gospel to others this week, no matter the personal cost to yourself and trust God for the outcome.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends