



Background:

Paul, Silas, and Timothy traveled about 90 miles to the capital of Macedonia, Thessalonica. As was his custom, Paul preached in the synagogue for several weeks. Thessalonica was a predominantly Greek-speaking area. Paul learned about the various religions in the area, making him able to speak to the inhabitants with common language. This made Paul very effective, and many were saved.

As in the past, the Jewish leaders became jealous as they lost influence over those who were being saved. This time, they used ignoble means to bring false accusations against the apostles for the work they were doing. Again, Paul and his crew were forced to leave the area. From Thessalonica, they headed south to Berea, about 46 miles southwest of Thessalonica, where they encountered a group of believers steeped in their faith, examining Scriptures daily to make sure they were hearing truth.



Read Acts 16:35 - 17:9

Have you ever been jealous of another person's success or promotion? Why do you answer the way you do?

What would it be like to get caught up in the midst of a controversy such as we see here? Why do you think Jason was willing to risk himself by associating with Paul and Silas?

Read Acts 17:10-15

Who do you know that is in Scripture daily? How is their life different from the average person?

What is the difference between a daily reading of Scripture, and examining Scripture?

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

Paul warns against idleness in the faith, and in life. What do you see as the consequences of idleness?

What are some of the characteristics of Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians?



Life Change:

What are you willing to sacrifice for God's Kingdom work?

If you aren't already, would you be willing to become like the Bereans, examining Scripture daily? Ask your Discippler for help in learning how to do this.



Getting Out There:

As another summer ends and many of us enter back into our routines, what are some ways that you can continue to preach and be the gospel to those around you? What are some obstacles that you can foresee facing? Pray that God would make you bold at your school, workplace, and home. Pray that God would remove all obstacles (or give you the power to work through them) as you seek to reach others with the gospel.



Family Moments:

Elementary: Read Acts 17:10-12

When the people heard God's message from Paul, what did they do? Why do you think they spent so much time in God's Word? How often do you think God wants us to spend time with Him?

*Pray as a family that God will help you spend time with Him daily and be committed to knowing more about Him. Then choose a time that you can come together every day to read the Bible and pray together.

Teen: Read Acts 17:3-5

How did the people respond to Paul sharing the message of Jesus?

Like Paul we need to continue to share the message of Jesus with the family we have been praying for regardless of their response. What has been challenging about this journey? What has been encouraging? How can we continue to share the love of Jesus with this family and others?