

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 23, 2007

Passage: Acts 17:1-15

Memory Passage: Isaiah 55:11

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 17:1-3.** How is Paul's ministry described in Acts 17:2-3? What do each of these *three words* tell us about how he did evangelism in this city?
- (b) What does Peter tell us to be prepared to do in 1 Peter 3:15? How was Paul doing this?
- (c) What did he "reason from?" Why was this important (2 Timothy 3:14-17)? How is God's Word essential in salvation (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 2:1-2)?
- (d) How did those at Thessalonica respond to the Scriptures (1 Thessalonians 2:13)? What does Paul say the Word of God does in those who believe?
- (e) What was the goal or focus of his teaching (Acts 17:3; Luke 24:26-27; Acts 9:22; Acts 18:28; John 5:39; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2)? What should be our focus in sharing the gospel?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 17:1-3 and 1 Peter 3:15. Talk about sharing the gospel. What do you think of when you think of evangelism? What did Paul do in sharing the gospel? How can we do the same today? Pray for someone that needs to know Christ as Savior.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 17:4-9.** What are some evidences of the conversion of some of these (Acts 17:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10)?
- (b) How would you describe the world today? Is everything as it should be? What are some of the problems? What is the reason for this (Genesis 3:17-19; Isaiah 24:5-6; Romans 8:20-22; John 7:7)?
- (c) *What kind of men* did the unbelieving Jews get to help them deal with the apostles? What does this tell you about how false religion often joins with evil men to stop the gospel (John 3:19)? In spite of this, who is the gospel offered to (John 3:14-21)?
- (d) What were the apostles accused of doing to the world? What were they really doing and why did this upset so many (Matthew 15:13; Jeremiah 1:10; 24:6; 31:28; Acts 26:18)?
- (e) How did Paul describe this in 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16? What was the goal of these unbelievers? How were they similar to the Pharisees (Matthew 23:13)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 17:4-9 and John 3:14-21. What is the message of the gospel? Who is it for? Who can receive it? Why does it make people so upset when they hear this message? Why should we keep sharing it even when people become angry about it? Pray that God would soften the hearts of unbelieving friends and relatives that we are witnessing to.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Kings 18:17.** What did Ahab call Elijah? What do we know about Ahab (1 Kings 16:30)? How is this situation similar to Acts 17?
- (b) Read Jeremiah 38:1-3. What did Jeremiah tell the people? How did they respond to his message?
- (c) Why do people respond this way to the gospel (John 15:18-27)?
- (d) What should be our response when the world hates us in this way (Matthew 5:10-12; Luke 6:23; Acts 5:41; Philippians 1:27-30)?
- (e) How did Paul and Silas respond to such opposition (Acts 20:22-24)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 5:10-12 and Philippians 1:27-30. Talk about opposition to the gospel. Why are people opposed to something that is totally free to all? How does it help us to understand the source of this opposition? How did Paul and Silas respond to opposition? Why? Pray that the Lord would give you boldness to share the gospel even in the face of opposition.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 17:10-15.** What did Paul and Silas do as soon as they arrived in Berea? What does this tell you about their courage in sharing the gospel?
- (b) How did the Bereans compare to those at Thessalonica? What is the appropriate why to listen to any teaching?
- (c) How should we approach our study of God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15; James 1:22)? How was Ezra similar to the Bereans (Ezra 7:10)?
- (d) What happened in both Berea and Thessalonica (Acts 17:2, 12)? Why does he mention the women specifically (Galatians 3:28)?
- (e) What do these verses tell us about the power of God's Word (Hebrews 4:12-13; Isaiah 55:11; 1 Peter 1:23)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 17:10-15 and 2 Timothy 2:15. Talk about the power of God's Word? What power does the Word of God have? What does this tell us about the importance of God's Word in evangelism? Thank God for His Word and its power to change lives and hearts.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26.** How does Paul describe evangelism? What must we do to be effective in evangelism?
- (b) What did Paul consider to be his “weapons” in spiritual battle (2 Corinthians 10:10:3-6)?
- (c) What is the heart of our battle/opposition (Ephesians 6:12)? Who are we opposing (2 Corinthians 4:4-6)?
- (d) What are the weapons of warfare (Ephesians 6:10-20)? How is each weapon essential for fighting spiritual battles?
- (e) What role do God’s Word and prayer play in evangelism (Ephesians 6:17-19)?
- (f) *Family:* Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26 and Ephesians 6:17-19. What role do prayer and the Word of God play in evangelism? Can we hope to be effective if we are not praying or if we are not sharing God’s Word in our evangelism? Thank God for the simplicity of the gospel and pray that He will enable you to be effective in the spiritual battle for the souls of others.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 17:1-15. How would you describe evangelism? What is the power that makes sharing the gospel effective? Can we ignore prayer and the Word and still see people come to faith in Christ? Can we expect opposition when we share? What should we be praying for? Pray today that God’s Word might be clear to all who sit under the preaching of God’s Word tomorrow.

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The Power of the Gospel

“These who have turned the world upside down have come here also...”