



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

**You Will Be
My Witnesses:**

Running the Race

Lesson 32



Thessalonica

Acts 17:1-9

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3
Deuteronomy 6
Isaiah 53

Memory Verse

Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (MSG)

Lesson Goals

Understand that God gave Paul the opportunity to speak

Understand that Paul used the opportunity to speak by explaining God's word

Understand that God gives us the opportunity to share as well

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Have you ever been “famous” after a race or a competition? Maybe you were only “famous” for a little while, maybe only a day. And maybe you were “famous” only to your friends or family. No matter how it happened, what did you do with your fame? When you were the center of attention, even if it was only for a little while, did you use the opportunity to talk about something really important to you or did you just focus on you? Let's see what Paul does when given the opportunity to speak.

When we talked about Paul last, he and his companions had been in Philippi. Lydia and her family as well as a jailer and his family began to follow Christ. Paul and his friends encouraged them before they left and then “they took the road south through Amphipolis and Apollonia to Thessalonica, where there was a community of Jews.” (Acts 17:1 MSG)

And as usual, they visited the Jewish synagogue. They did this for three weeks in a row. Paul had become well known. People wanted to hear him speak. “He opened up the texts so they understood what they'd been reading all their lives: that the Messiah absolutely had to be put to death and raised from the dead—there were no other options—and that ‘this Jesus I'm introducing you to is that Messiah.’” (Acts 17:3 MSG)

The Jews had grown up learning the Scriptures (what now makes up our Old Testament) in their homes as well as more formal settings. God, through Moses, commanded, “Make sure your children learn them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:7 NIV) But sometimes when you hear something over and over again you know the information in your head, you could even retell it, but it hasn't found meaning and it hasn't changed you. That's what had happened to these Jews in Thessalonica. They had read and heard the Old Testament Scriptures all of their lives, but they

Application

When you are the center of attention, even if it is only for a little while, do you use the opportunity to talk about something really important to you or do you just focus on you?

Have you ever thought that a person's fame could be a gift from God to give them greater opportunities to share the Good News?

Even when you talk to friends, even though you may never be famous, do you focus on clothes, hair, money, etc. or do you make sure your friends know about Jesus?

Maybe you can't do that because you don't know Him. It is simple, but it requires faith to believe. The Bible says that we are sinners deserving of death. But God offers life, if we believe that Jesus is His son, crucified with your sin, buried, and raised to life on the third day? Will you step out and follow Him today?

didn't understand what they meant. The Messiah, God's Promised One, had walked among them and they didn't realize who He was.

When Paul explained the Scriptures to them, and explained that Jesus was the fulfillment of those Scriptures, "Some of them believed what Paul had said, and they became followers with Paul and Silas. Some Gentiles and many important women also believed the message." (Acts 17:4 CEV)

And as we have seen before, the Jews became jealous and angry. They were so tied to their lists of extra rules and regulations that they still couldn't see God at work through His Son, Jesus Christ. They rounded up a crowd to help them cause trouble and they went to Jason's house. "They broke into Jason's house, thinking that Paul and Silas were there." (Acts 17:5 MSG) When they couldn't be found, they decided to drag Jason and some of the other believers before the city officials. They accused Paul and Silas of causing trouble and trying "to destroy the world." (Acts 17:7 MSG) They accused Jason and his friends of harboring them. Finally, they accused them of "disobeying Caesar's commands. They say there is another king. He is called Jesus." (Acts 17:7 NlrV)

They were all very upset about this. Even though they released Jason, they required bail money to let them go, just to make sure they would come back to the court. Then, they were free to go.

Review

1. Where did Paul and Silas go after leaving Philippi? (Thessalonica)
2. What did they do there? (They taught in the synagogue for three weeks in a row.)
3. What did they teach? (They explained that Jesus was God's fulfillment of the Scriptures they had grown up listening to.)
4. Did everyone believe? (No.)
5. What else happened? (Some of the Jews became angry and dragged Jason out of his home and to court.)

Next Week
Be a Berean!
Acts 17:10-15

Preschool Lesson

When we talked about Paul last, he had been in Philippi. Lydia and her family and a jailer and his family began to follow Christ. Paul and his friends went south from there to Thessalonica, where there was a community of Jews. And as usual, they visited the Jewish synagogue. They did this for three weeks in a row. Paul explained what he was reading “so they understood what they'd been reading all their lives:” that Jesus had to die and be raised from the dead. (Acts 17:3 MSG)

The Jews had grown up learning the Scriptures (what now makes up our Old Testament) in their homes. God, through Moses, commanded, “Make sure your children learn them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:7 NIV) But sometimes when you hear something over and over again you know the information in your head, you could even retell it, but it hasn't found meaning and it hasn't changed you. That's what had happened to these Jews in Thessalonica. They had read and heard the Old Testament Scriptures all of their lives, but they didn't understand what they meant. Jesus had walked among them and they did not realize who He was.

When Paul explained the Scriptures to them, and explained that Jesus was who those Scriptures were talking about, “some of them believed what Paul had said, and they became followers with Paul and Silas. Some Gentiles and many important women also believed the message.” (Acts 17:4 CEV)

And as we have seen before, the people who refused to believe became jealous and angry. They believed in their lists of extra rules and regulations. They rounded up a crowd to help them cause trouble and they went to Jason's house. “They broke into Jason's house, thinking that Paul and Silas were there.” (Acts 17:5 MSG) When they couldn't be found, they decided to drag Jason and some of the other believers before the city officials. They accused Paul and Silas of causing trouble and trying “to destroy the world.” (Acts 17:7 MSG) They were all very upset about this. Even though they released Jason, they required bail money to let them go, just to make sure they would come back to the court. Then, they were free to go.

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Work on memorizing the verse. Then, make a list of when and where you can talk about God's Word.

Sing "Ancient Words," "Thy Word," "Wonderful Words of Life," and "The B-I-B-L-E."

Provide activities that will encourage your students to learn the books of the Old Testament. Provide memory games, word searches, crossword puzzles, etc.

Read Deuteronomy 6. Talk about the need to know God's word. Discuss the chapter and talk about the difference adhering to God's word makes in one's life.

Read through Isaiah 53. Talk about how Jesus fulfills this promise of God.

Were Paul and his companions really out to "destroy the world?" (Acts 17:7 MSG) Talk about how sin distorts things and how wrong begins to look right and right begins to look wrong.

Share a short version of your testimony. Encourage your students to formalize theirs—it will aid in quicker recall when they have an opportunity to share.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, focus on the notoriety that comes with running well. Do you shy away from sharing your faith when you have the opportunity or do you speak boldly, the way the early church prayed to speak?



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given you today on your hearts.

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and then get them inside your children.

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sitting at home or walking in the street;
talk about them

from the time you get up in the morning
to when you fall into bed at night.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7



Racing Riddles

Use the letters T-H-E-S-S-A-L-O-N-I-C-A to explain what you understand about the Scriptures you have learned.

T
H
E
S
S
A
L
O
N
I
C
A

Word Search

g o g a n y s t e b w e p s m
u a s o c w h e s s a l o t a
g s r s s k e e w e e r h t r
n i l s i h t a b l a e l e k
a h n e i l o n r m s i d i e
s t s r l a a r a s y e h l t
d o y u a a h s a a n e p e s
n m r t s d e l d i a r h b q
a i s p f d o n a n g i b y u
d t c i e n l l n n o s a j a
e h l r i l p n a i g l i i b
y t u c t x h y p m u u l m e
a s a s e i l e b r e l i a j
u r p l l e t e n u t r o f p
t h e s s a l o t y l i m a f

Thessalonica

Paul

Silas

synagogue

three weeks

explained

Scriptures

Jason

bail

Word Search

g o g a n y s t e b w e p s m
u a s o c w h e s s a l o t a
g s r s s k e e w e e r h t r
n i l s i h t a b l a e l e k
a h n e i l o n r m s i d i e
s t s r l a a r a s y e h l t
d o y u a a h s a a n e p e s
n m r t s d e l d i a r h b q
a i s p f d o n a n g i b y u
d t c i e n l l n n o s a j a
e h l r i l p n a i g l i i b
y t u c t x h y p m u u l m e
a s a s e i l e b r e l i a j
u r p l l e t e n u t r o f p
t h e s s a l o t y l i m a f

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