



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 33



Be a Berean!

Acts 17:10-15

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3
Psalm 119:9-16
2 Timothy 2:14-17a
Ephesians 6:10-18

Memory Verse

Make every effort to give yourself to God as the kind of person He will approve. Be a worker who is not ashamed and who uses the true teaching in the right way.
2 Timothy 2:15 (NCV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Paul taught in Berea just as he had in many other cities

Understand that the Bereans received Paul's message with gladness

Understand that the Bereans also searched God's Word, testing what Paul had taught them

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 run a race, or done anything, halfway? Maybe you didn't really care about what you were doing, maybe your parents made you do it, or maybe you didn't really think you would win so you didn't try. On the other hand, have you ever done anything where you did your very best, with all your heart? Maybe the outcome wasn't exactly what you wanted, but you knew you had done all you could do. Let's see what we can learn from our lesson today about doing our best.

We learned in our last lesson that Paul and his companions were in the city of Thessalonica. They taught in the synagogue for three weeks in a row. Some of the people there believed, but there were others who were jealous of the attention Paul and his friends were getting. They refused to believe in Jesus. They looked for Paul, and when they couldn't find him, they hauled Jason to court instead. Jason had welcomed Paul into his home.

"As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea." (Acts 17:10a NIV) They were sent there for their safety. And guess what they did there! They went straight to the Jewish synagogue, "where they again met with the Jewish community." (Acts 17:10b MSG) Paul and Silas were treated very well in Berea; the people there were much nicer. "The Bereans were very glad to receive Paul's message. They studied the Scriptures carefully every day. They wanted to see if what Paul said was true." (Acts 17:11 NIV) The Bereans didn't just listen to Paul and then forget what he said. They also didn't just believe him blindly either. They listened and accepted what Paul said, then they searched God's word to make sure all that he said was true! "A lot of them became believers, including many Greeks who were prominent in the community, women and men of influence." (Acts 17:12 MSG)

Application

Even when things don't turn out as you expect, have you made it a habit in your life to do your best, no matter what? Do you follow the example of the Bereans? They believed Paul's message, but they made sure that everything he said could be supported with Scripture. Our memory verse says, "Make every effort to give yourself to God as the kind of person He will approve. Be a worker who is not ashamed and who uses the true teaching in the right way. (2 Timothy 2:15 NCV) Another version of that verse says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God." (KJV) We are to study the scriptures as the Bereans did. Will you commit to do that today?

And maybe you have tried to study but none of it makes sense to you. Have you given your life to the Lord and accepted Him as your Savior? If not, the Holy Spirit, our teacher, hasn't yet begun to live in you. But He can. Will you begin a relationship with the Lord today?

And then, trouble started again. The Jews from Thessalonica, the ones who had broken into Jason's home, heard that Paul was sharing the Good News in Berea now. They traveled from Thessalonica to Berea and stirred up the crowds there, too. With the help of the believers, Paul left Berea. He headed toward the coast. Silas and Timothy remained in Berea, though.

Paul made it as far as the city of Athens. The believers who had traveled with him returned with a message for Paul and Silas. They were to join Paul in Athens as soon as they could.

Review

1. Where did Paul go after leaving Thessalonica? (Berea)
2. How did he get there? (The believers from Thessalonica helped him leave at night.)
3. What did Paul do once he arrived in Berea? (He went to the synagogue.)
4. What was special about the Bereans? (When Paul shared from the Bible, they received his message. They also studied the Scriptures every day. They wanted to make sure that what Paul was saying was true.)

Next Week
Paul in Athens
Acts 17:16-34

Preschool Lesson

We learned in our last lesson that Paul and his friends were in the city of Thessalonica. They taught in the synagogue for three weeks in a row. Some of the people there believed, but there were others who were jealous of the attention Paul and his friends were getting. They didn't want to believe in Jesus. Instead, they looked for Paul, and when they couldn't find him, they hauled Jason to court instead. Jason had done nothing more than welcome Paul into his home.

“As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea.” (Acts 17:10a NIV) They were sent there for their safety. And guess what they did there! They went straight to the Jewish synagogue, “where they again met with the Jewish community.” (Acts 17:10b MSG) Paul and Silas were treated very well in Berea; the people there were much nicer. “The Bereans were very glad to receive Paul’s message. They studied the Scriptures carefully every day. They wanted to see if what Paul said was true.” (Acts 17:11 NIV) The Bereans didn’t just listen to Paul and then forget what he said. They listened and accepted what Paul said, then they searched God’s word to make sure all that he said was true! “A lot of them became believers, including many Greeks who were prominent in the community, women and men of influence.” (Acts 17:12 MSG)

And then, trouble started again. The Jews from Thessalonica, the ones who had broken into Jason’s home, heard that Paul was sharing the Good News in Berea now. They traveled from Thessalonica to Berea and stirred up the crowds there, too. With the help of the believers, Paul left Berea. He headed toward the coast. Silas and Timothy remained in Berea, though.

Paul made it as far as the city of Athens. The believers who had traveled with him returned with a message for Paul and Silas. They were to join Paul in Athens as soon as they could.

Paul was a good friend to the believers. He taught them about God and the gift of His Son, Jesus. The believers in Berea were very smart. They listened to Paul. They studied the Bible to make sure that what Paul said was true. They took what they heard and worked it into their lives. Don’t you want to do the same? Won’t you listen to your teacher and then put into practice what you have learned?

Sing: “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock.”

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Make swords from cardstock. Cover the blade with aluminum foil. Write the memory verse on the hilt.

Sing “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock,” “Ancient Words,” “The B-I-B-L-E,” “How Firm a Foundation,” “Wonderful Words of Life,” and “ Standing on the Promises.”

Provide activities from the Old and New Testaments. Play memory games, practice the divisions of the books of the Bible, practice learning the books of the Bible.

Review the lesson. Discuss what it would mean to “be a Berean.” Read Psalm 119:9-16. Discuss these verses in light of today’s lesson.

Read Matthew 7:24-27 and James 1:22. Talk about the need to do more than just hear God’s Word. There is a need to listen, to receive, and to put it into practice.

Read the memory verse from several different translations. Talk about what it means. The Amplified Bible reads this way, “Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3. Have a contest to see who can remember the most or who can say it the fastest.



Make every effort to give yourself to God as the kind of person He will approve. Be a worker who is not ashamed and who uses the true teaching in the right way.

2 Timothy 2:15

Racing Riddles

What does it mean to “be a Berean.” Spell it out using the letters below.

B

E

A

B

E

R

E

A

N

Word Search

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

at night

Berea

Paul

Silas

Timothy

nice

receive message

study Scriptures

many believe

Word Search

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

at night

Berea

Paul

Silas

Timothy

nice

receive message

study Scriptures

many believe