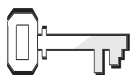


## Bible Detectives



### References

Acts 17:1–14; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 231–233



### Memory Verse

“[The Bereans] received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true” (Acts 17:11, NIV).



### Objectives

The children will:  
**Know** that studying the Bible can enrich our lives and increase our mental abilities.  
**Feel** a desire to read God’s Word each day.  
**Respond** by giving thanks to God for His Word, the Bible.



### The Message

I worship God when I study my Bible every day.

### Monthly Theme

We praise God in our times of worship.

### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Following determined opposition in Thessalonica, Paul and Silas left by night and traveled to Berea. On arrival they went to the Jewish synagogue. These Jews were more fair-minded. They were ready to receive the good news and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether the things Paul and Silas taught were right. Many of them believed. When the Jews from Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching about God in Berea, they went there and stirred up the crowds. The Berean brethren sent Paul away to safety under cover of darkness. Silas and Timothy remained to continue the work.

### *This is a lesson about worship.*

The Bereans worshipped God as they studied the Scriptures to learn for themselves whether Paul’s teachings were right. We, too, worship God as we search the Scriptures, seeking truth.

### Teacher Enrichment

Berea was a small Macedonian city about 50 miles southwest of Thessalonica where the unbelieving Jews had tried to harm Paul while he was staying at the home of Jason. Paul and Silas went directly to the Jewish Synagogue as they usually did. This was particularly courageous after the trouble in Thessalonica. The Berean converts had always been pointed to as a good example to follow, because they were open-minded. After listening to Paul they diligently studied the Scriptures to decide the truth for themselves. It is interesting that the unbelievers of Thessalonica would travel 50 miles, a three-day journey in Bible times, simply to create trouble for Paul and Silas. The city of Berea is called Verria today. (Summarized from *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, pp. 343–345, and *The SDA Bible Dictionary*, p. 138.)

### Room Decorations

See Lesson 9.

## Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
<b>1</b> Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Hide 'em in Your Heart Relay</i>  B. <i>Mind Food</i>	8 paper heart shapes (see p. 152), 4 chairs, Bible stickers (optional)  variety of fruit or pictures of healthy foods, white/chalkboard, marker/chalk
<b>Any Time</b> Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container from Lesson 9 large sheet black paper, large sheet white paper, pencils, scissors, glue
<b>2</b> Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story  Memory Verse  Bible Study	man to play Paul, Bible-times costumes offering "Bible" (see Prayer and Praise), slips of paper Bibles, magnifying glass
<b>3</b> Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>I'm Hungry</i>	Bible, children's Bible, baby bottle, milk, jar of baby food, bread, can of food, baby picture, primary-age child's picture, Bible picture book, table
<b>4</b> Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Marking the Place</i>	bookmark pattern (see p. 154), crayons/markers, clear contact paper (optional), scissors, heavy paper or card stock

\*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

# TEACHING THE LESSON

## Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



## Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

### You Need:

- 8 paper heart shapes (see p. 152)
- 4 chairs
- Bible stickers (optional)

### A. Hide 'em in Your Heart Relay

Write each of the following texts inside one of the paper hearts (see page 152) and fold it in half. Make two sets of texts. Divide the children into teams. For each team place two chairs about 15 feet (four to five meters) apart. Line the children up behind one chair. When you say "Go," the first person dashes to the second chair, picks up a heart, reads the first verse, dashes back, repeats it to their group, and touches the next person's hand. Depending on the reading ability of your group, you may need to simplify the verse or have someone help the children read the verse. You may want to give everyone a Bible sticker at the end. Use the following verses.

Rejoice in the Lord always.	(Philippians 4:4)
I have hidden your word in my heart.	(Psalm 119:11)
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.	(Psalm 107:1)
All your words are true.	(Psalm 119:160)

### Debriefing

Ask: **Were those verses familiar? Do you remember those verses?** Allow time for children to repeat each verse. **You did really well. You also learned a tiny bit of Scripture. When we read and study the Bible, we are worshipping God. The people in today's story studied the Scriptures to find out what was true. We can do that too. Our message for today is:**



**I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I STUDY MY BIBLE EVERY DAY.**

**Say that with me.**

### You Need:

- variety of fruit or pictures of healthy foods
- white/chalkboard
- marker/chalk

### B. Mind Food\*

Show the different fruits to the children. Say: **Let's make a list of all the good things about these different fruits.** Allow time. **All these things are true, but the fruit will not do us any good unless we eat it.** If appropriate in your setting, let the children taste a small piece of fruit (an orange segment or something similar). \*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

### Debriefing

Ask: **Why do we need to eat fruit? What other foods are good for us? Good food makes us physically strong. What makes us spiritually strong?** (studying God Word, memorizing scriptures, praying, helping others) **When we study God's**

**Word and learn our memory verses we make what we are learning a part of our lives. It helps us be spiritually strong. We worship God when we study His Word and learn more about His plans for our lives. Our message for today is:**



**I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I STUDY MY BIBLE EVERY DAY.**

**Say that with me.**

## Prayer and Praise

**Any  
Time**



### Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



### Suggested Songs

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 119)

"I Would Be True" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 117)

"A Little Talk With Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 98)

"With Folded Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 97)

"Into My Heart" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 125)



### Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize Bible study and worship in the mission story.



### Offering

Say: **We worship God when we give our offering to help others to learn and study His Word.**

#### You Need:

- offering container from Lesson 9



### Prayer

Cut the white sheet of paper to look like the pages of an open book. Mount it on the black paper so the black paper looks like the cover of the book. If the "book" is large enough, allow the children to write their prayer requests on the blank pages. If not, have a helper write the requests in the "Bible." Be sure to include thanks for the Word of God in your prayer.

#### You Need:

- large white sheet of paper
- large black sheet of paper
- scissors
- glue
- pencils

# 2

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- adult male
- Bible-times costumes

### Experiencing the Story

#### Setting the Scene

Invite a man dressed in a Bible-times costume to play the role of Paul. Tell the children that they will need to listen very carefully to distinguish between the Thessalonican Jews and the Berean Jews. Practice the following until the children are comfortable with the actions.

<b>When they hear:</b>	<b>The children:</b>
<b>Berean Jews</b>	Fold hands in prayer.
<b>Scripture(s)</b>	Put palms together, then open them.
<b>Jews from Thessalonica</b>	Give thumbs-down signal.

#### Read or tell the story.

My name is Paul. Jesus gave me a special mission. I am called an apostle, or someone Jesus has called and sent out. My job is to tell the story of Jesus, first to the Jews and then to everyone else. The Jews called people of other races, Gentiles.

Whenever I go to a new city, I visit the synagogue on Sabbath. I show the Jews from the **Scriptures** how Jesus was the Messiah and explain to them how Jesus met me on the road to Damascus and I became a Christian.

When I went to the city of **Thessalonica**, some of the Jews and a lot of Gentiles believed my message. Many became Christians. The Jews who did not become Christians were jealous. They wanted to get rid of me. There

were not a lot of Jews in the city, so they needed help. These Jewish leaders went to the marketplace, where people who did not have jobs gathered. Here they found some people who liked to make trouble.

Silas was traveling with me, and we were staying at the home of a man called Jason. The bad crowd led by the **Thessalonican Jewish leaders** went to Jason's house to try to find us. When they could not find us, they dragged Jason and some other Christians to court. The Jewish leaders said that Silas and I were disobeying Caesar by saying that Jesus was king. They also convinced the magistrates that Jason should be punished because we were staying with him. The court forced Jason to pay a fine because they believed the lies the **leaders of the Thessalonican Jews** told against him. Silas and I hid, and the crowd never did find us. That night the other Christians smuggled us out of the town, and we went to a place 50 miles away called Berea.

As usual, Silas and I went directly to the synagogue. The **Jews in Berea**, who were called Bereans, listened carefully to what I said. After they listened, they searched the **Scriptures** for themselves to see if what I said was true. After the **Berean Jews** studied, many believed and became Christians. And they kept studying every day, even after they became Christians. They did not study because they were curious. They studied because they wanted to learn more about Jesus. Angels stood beside them to help them understand what they were reading.

When the leaders of the **Thessalonican Jews** found out that Silas and I were in Berea, they followed us. Again they found some bad people in Berea and started another riot. The **Berean Christians**

helped me escape and now I am in Athens waiting for Silas and Timothy. They stayed behind to help the **Berean Jews** learn more about Jesus. Some of the new Berean believers traveled with me, and I told them to ask Timothy and Silas to come join me when they finished their work in Berea.

I was so happy working with the Bereans. There is nothing better than studying the Word of God. The more you study, the happier you will be too.

### Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think the Jewish leaders in Thessalonica tried to cause so much trouble for Paul and Silas?**

**Would you have dared to go to the synagogue in Berea after what had happened in Thessalonica?**

**How would you feel if people tried to kill you because you were teaching from the Bible?**

**Why did the Bereans study God's Word every day?**

**How can we be sure that what we hear in Sabbath School and church is right?** (Study the Bible for ourselves.)

**Let's say today's message together:**



**I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I STUDY MY BIBLE EVERY DAY.**

### Memory Verse

Write each word of the memory verse on a separate slip of paper. Put the words in the "offering Bible." Have the children pick out one word at a time and place them in the right order to form the verse. They may use their Bibles. Have an adult assist nonreaders.

#### You Need:

- offering "Bible" (see Prayer and Praise)
- memory verse on slips of paper

Repeat the memory verse several times using the following actions:

**[The Bereans]** Nod head yes.

**received the message** Reach out hand to accept something.

**with great eagerness** Jump up and down.

**and examined the Scriptures** Put hands together and open and close like a book.

**every day** Hold up seven fingers.

**to see if what Paul said was true.** Nod head yes.

**Acts 17:11 Palms together; then open.**

### Bible Study

Write the nine statements and questions listed on the top of the next page on very small pieces of paper.

Have the children come one by one and use the magnifying glass to read the statements. The other children should search for the right answer in Acts 17. When they find the verse with the answer, they are to stand. Adults assist as needed.

Say: **Some true-or-false statements and some questions are on these papers. The answers are found in Acts 17.**

**Like the Bereans, search the Scriptures to see if the statements are true. When you find the verse or know the answer, stand up.**

**Call on different children to read the text and tell the answer.**

#### You Need:

- Bibles
- magnifying glass



1. True or False? Paul visited Berea first. (verse 1, false, Thessalonica)
2. True or False? Paul spent three Sabbaths at the Thessalonica synagogue. (verse 2, true)
3. Paul told the Thessalonians that Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_. (verse 3, Christ/Messiah)
4. True or False? Paul was staying with James. (verse 5, false, Jason)
5. What time of the day did Paul and Silas leave for Berea? (verse 10, night-time)
6. What made the Bereans “more noble” than the Thessalonians? (verse 11; they studied the Scriptures to see if Paul’s words were true)
7. What three groups of people are mentioned as believing Paul’s message? (verse 12; Jews, Greek men and women)
8. True or False? The Thessalonian

Jews believed Paul when they came to Berea. (verse 13, false. They stirred up the crowd.)

9. Where did the Berean believers send Paul for his safety? (verses 14, 15; Athens)

### **Debriefing**

Ask: **Why do you think Paul moved on when there was trouble?** (He did not want the local Christians to suffer.)

**Why is it important that we study the Bible for ourselves?**

**How often did the Bereans study the Scriptures? How often should we study the Bible? Why?**

Say: **Let’s say today’s message together:**



**I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I STUDY MY BIBLE EVERY DAY.**

## **3**

### **Applying the Lesson**

#### **You Need:**

- Bible
- children’s Bible
- baby bottle
- milk
- jar of baby food
- bread
- can of food
- baby picture, primary-age child’s picture
- Bible picture book
- table

#### **I’m Hungry**

Put the items on the table and ask the children to match the kind of food with the right Bible. Make sure everyone agrees with the responses.

#### **Debriefing**

Ask: **Why did you match the foods and the Bibles? How are they similar?**

Say: **When you were a baby, your parents shared God’s Word with you through their love, by singing songs,**

**and telling you stories.**

**When you were a toddler, you could look at a picture Bible, and your parents read or told you the stories. Now that you are older, some of you can read a children’s Bible for yourself.**

**As you grow more and more, you will be able to read all of God’s Word! One way we worship God is by studying His Word.**

**Let’s say our message together:**



**I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I STUDY MY BIBLE EVERY DAY.**

## 4

## Sharing the Lesson

### Marking the Place

In advance, prepare a poster, or write where all can see, the following steps to Bible study. Discuss each step before you distribute the Bible study bookmarks.

### Steps to Bible Study

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you read.
2. Read two or three verses, then read it again slowly and carefully.
3. In your own words, write or say the verses.
4. Ask Jesus what He wants to say to you from these verses.
5. Write or draw a picture about it.

Copy the Bible study bookmark (see page 154) onto heavyweight paper or card stock. Give each child two copies. Have the children color and decorate them. If possible, cover with clear contact paper. Review the points on the bookmark.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**What have you learned about the importance of studying your Bible?**

**When Paul and Silas learned about Jesus, did they keep it to themselves? Was it always easy for them to share God's Word?**

Say: **One way we can share God's Word is by sharing a bookmark with a friend or someone in your family. Take a moment to think of someone with whom you would like to share. Next time you see them, give them a bookmark and ask them about their Bible study.**

**Let's repeat today's message:**



**I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I STUDY MY BIBLE EVERY DAY.**

### Closing

Pray that God will be with the children as they study their Bibles every day.

#### You Need:

- Bible study bookmark pattern (see p. 154)
- crayons/markers
- clear contact paper (optional)
- scissors
- heavy paper or card stock



## Bible Detectives

### References

Acts 17:1–14; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 231–233

### Memory Verse

“[The Bereans] received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true” (Acts 17:11, NIV).

### The Message

I worship God when I study my Bible every day.

*Would you like to be a Bible detective? To discover new ideas and information? Let’s learn about some Bible detectives who searched the Scriptures to see if Paul was right.*

Jesus had given Paul a special mission. He called Paul to be an apostle. His work was to tell the story of Jesus, first to the Jews, then to everyone else.

Paul traveled a lot. When he went to a new city, he went to the synagogue first. He would show the Jews from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah. Then Paul would tell them how he became a Christian.

When Paul went to the city of Thessalonica, some of the Jews and a lot of Gentiles believed what he said. Many people became Christians. Some Jews who did not believe were jealous. They wanted to get rid of Paul. But they needed help to do that. The Jewish leaders went to the marketplace, where people who did not have jobs gathered. Here they found some people who liked to make trouble.

Paul and his traveling partner Silas were staying at the home of a man named Jason. The troublemakers, led by the Jewish leaders, went to Jason’s house. But Paul and Silas weren’t there. So they

dragged Jason and some other Christians to court. The Jewish leaders said that Paul and Silas were disobeying Roman law by saying that Jesus was king. They said that Jason should be punished



because Paul and Silas were staying with him. The court believed the crowd and forced Jason to pay money. The crowd never did find Paul and Silas. That night the other Christians sent them to a town called Berea.

As usual, Paul and Silas went directly to the synagogue. The people in Berea, called Bereans, were kinder than the people in Thessalonica. The Bereans listened carefully to what Paul was saying. After they listened, they searched the Scriptures for themselves. They wanted to be sure that what he said was true. After they studied, many believed and became Christians. And after they became Christians, they still studied every day. They did not study because they were curious. They studied because they wanted to learn more about Jesus. Angels stood beside them to help them understand what they were reading.

When some of the Jewish leaders in Thessalonica found out that Paul and Silas were in Berea, they followed them. They found the same kind of troublemakers in Berea and started another riot. But the Berean Christians sent Paul to the city of Athens. There he would be safe.

Silas and Timothy stayed behind to help the Bereans learn more about Jesus. Some of the new Berean believers went with Paul. When they arrived in Athens, Paul sent them back to Berea. He asked them to take a message to his friends. He wanted Timothy and Silas to join him when their work was done.

The Bereans continued to search the Scriptures. They wanted to know more about God. They wanted to learn more about Jesus.

Jesus invites us to study the Bible every day. He wants us to learn more of His Word. As you read the Scriptures, He will help you understand them. Just ask Him. He wants you to know Him better.

## Daily Activities

### Sabbath

- Share your lesson story and memory verse with your family. Ask: Why did the Bereans study the Scriptures? Ask your family to help you make a Bible study journal. Each day this week, make notes or draw pictures in it as you read the Bible together.
- Read Psalm 92:1 and 2 together. Then write or draw something in your Bible study journal.
- Thank God for blessing you and your family as you study His Word.

### Sunday

- With your family, read and discuss Acts 17:1–4 and verses 10–12. What did Paul and Silas do in these places? Write about it in your Bible study journal.
- Ask your family to help you make a poster to advertise Paul's meetings in Berea.
- Pray that God will bless your pastor this week as he or she prepares the sermon for next Sabbath.

### Monday

- Before family worship, write your memory verse as small as you can. Make a magnifying glass by putting some water in a clear plastic bag and sealing it. Place your memory verse under it. What happens? Share it and teach your family the memory verse. Write it in your Bible study journal.
- Sing a song about the Bible, then thank God for it.

### Tuesday

- During worship today, put three paper cups upside down on a table. Put a coin under one. Move the cups around several times without lifting them up. Ask someone to guess which cup the coin is under. Are they right? Do this 10 times.

- The Bereans didn't guess what was right. Read and discuss Acts 17:11 together to find out what they did to find truth. How can you know if what you are told about God is right? Write about it in your journal.
- Ask God to help you understand what is right as you study His Word together each day.

### Wednesday

- Read and discuss Psalm 119:11. What does it mean to you? to your family? Write about it in your journal.
- Sing a praise song, then thank God for His Word.

### Thursday

- With your family, read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:15. How many different versions of the Bible are in your home? How can they help you understand God's Word? Read and compare your memory verse in each version.
- Ask each person to name and explain a favorite Bible text. Why do they like it? Look up their texts in different Bible versions. How are they the same? How is this being a good Bible detective? List the texts in your journal.
- Thank God for His Word.

### Friday

- Read and discuss Acts 17:1–15 during family worship. What happened in Thessalonica? in Berea? What was the big difference between the Thessalonians and the Bereans? Would you rather be like the Thessalonians or the Bereans? Why?
- Share some things from your Bible study journal. Say your memory verse together. Then thank God that, as Paul did, you can go to church tomorrow.