

12 Lesson

Bible Detectives

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

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.



The Message

I worship God when I study my Bible every day.

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

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).

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.



S A B B A T H

DO 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 Read Psalm 92:1 and 2 together. Then write or draw something in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Thank God for blessing you and your family as you study His Word.

S U N D A Y

READ 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 Ask your family to help you make a poster to advertise Paul's meetings in Berea.

PRAY Pray that God will bless your pastor this week as he or she prepares the sermon for next Sabbath.

M O N D A Y

DO 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 Sing a song about the Bible, then thank God for it.

T U E S D A Y

DO 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.

READ 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.

PRAY Ask God to help you understand what is right as you study His Word together each day.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Psalm 119:11. What does it mean to you? to your family? Write about it in your journal.

SING Sing a praise song, then thank God for His Word.

T H U R S D A Y

READ 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.

DO 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.

PRAY Thank God for His Word.

F R I D A Y

READ 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?

DO 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.

An apostle is someone Jesus has called and sent out. The apostle Paul saw Jesus in a vision on the road to Damascus.



Bible Detectives PUZZLE

Directions: The Bereans sent Paul away under cover of darkness in order to keep him safe. Trace the safe route away from Berea.

