

2024 - Family Devo

Aug 4 - a



READ: Acts 17:1-15

Main Idea: Paul and Silas traveled to Thessalonica and persuaded some of the Jews there that Jesus was the Christ. But most of the Jews rejected them and some formed a mob and Paul and Silas had to leave town at night. Then they go to Berea and the Jews there were accepting. They received their preaching with eagerness and searched the scriptures daily to see if what they were hearing was true.

DISCUSS

Children: Do you do that? Do you listen when the teacher is talking? Do you listen when the preacher is preaching? Do you just believe everything they say and never ask questions? Hopefully not, because teachers and preachers are just people. They may not always say it right. You need to listen and understand and ask questions!

Teen: What evidence did Paul use to persuade the Jews that Jesus was the Christ? When the Jews in Berea received the word what did they do to confirm what they were being told? Should we be doing the same today?

Adult: Have you ever talked with someone who said "I'll have to ask my priest/pastor/fill in the title and get back to you?" And the discussion was not about their denomination's history, but about their personal religious beliefs. Why do you think so many people aren't willing to search the scriptures? Why do they rely on someone else to help with what their own belief is? And think about how much more available the scriptures are to us today than what the Bereans had. Also, they received the gospel with eagerness. When were you last eager to hear the gospel? If it's been some time, what can you do to change that?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Isaiah 26:3 (ESV)
You keep him in
perfect peace whose
mind is stayed on
you, because he
trusts in you.



2024 - Family Devo

Aug 4 - b



READ: Acts 17:16-25

Main Idea: When Paul goes to Athens he finds a strange town. They have idols everywhere. He soon finds himself in the public part of their town with people gathering wanting to hear the new teachings he was bringing. As Paul begins to preach, he doesn't start by telling them where they are wrong with their many idols. Instead, he begins by complimenting them by saying, "I perceive that in every way you are very religious."

DISCUSS

Children: Is it good to start a conversation with someone by telling them 'everything you do is wrong!!' Why not? Maybe because most people will just shut down and stop listening if you approach it that way. Paul leads with a compliment! Hey, your hat's pretty! Then he tells them it doesn't fit right. Except he was talking about God and gods. He wanted them to know that he knew they worshipped, just maybe not the right god.

Teen: When trying to talk to someone about Jesus should you start with why they are wrong in their thinking? What would the likely outcome of that approach be? If we could find something complimentary to say, or some common ground to start with, could this affect our ability to share Jesus with others?

Adult: Paul starts with a compliment, then goes on to call them ignorant two sentences later. Is this how you would start a conversation with someone who knew you had a certain belief? How would you start that conversation? Would you have a plan or would you just talk off the cuff? How comfortable would you be if someone who knew you were a Christian asked you to study with them? Would you have any hesitation? Why?

PRAY

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