

STUDY GUIDE

for the week of 10/27 thru 11/3
Acts 17:1-9



WHATS THE STORY?

Paul and his friends make their way to Thessalonica, where they teach in the synagogue about the risen Messiah, Jesus. However, their preaching stirs up anger from some who don't believe, and the Roman authorities find themselves in the middle of the conflict.

LECTIO DEVINA

Prepare: Find a calm and quiet place to read and absorb the passage.

Read: Read through the passage. Listen for any words or phrases that jump out and listen for what God has to say.

Reflect: Try to understand what God could be saying to you through this passage.

Respond: Journal or pray to God, communicating about what you think God was telling you through Scripture.

Rest: Spend time contemplating, allowing God to work.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does a healthy conversation about Jesus with a non-believer look like?
- Why did the Jewish leaders seek the help of the Roman government?



FAMILY STUDY

- Discuss:** How did Jesus change the way the Jewish Christians thought about their messiah figure?
- Why did the Messiah need to die and rise from the dead?
- How would you feel if your faith journey started like Jason's?

A Deeper Look

Paul and friends continued spreading the message of Christ as they traveled down the coastal cities of the Aegean Sea. As Paul often did, he went into a synagogue in Thessalonica and began to argue his case about Christ. Paul's arguments probably looked a lot like his writings, speaking from the common ground of the Old Testament to explain the depth and power of the Jewish messiah Jesus. Luke tells us that every Saturday for three weeks he returned to speak to the leaders and the other Jewish men and women who would have met in this synagogue. It seems Paul's main argument is that, "...it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, 'This is the Messiah, Jesus...'"(v3)

They ended up persuading some of those meeting, as well as some Greeks who were "God fearers"(v4). Luke adds that some prominent or leading women were persuaded to join the cause as well, becoming believers in Christ and his resurrection. But some who did not join in this movement became angry. They went into the town and convinced some with a rowdy reputation to riot in the town against Paul and company. They then took it to the Roman government level in hopes that they would use their power against the "...men who have caused trouble all over the world..."(v6) Those who were against Christ claimed they were here to claim that their Messiah was another king other than Caesar. While their intent was to stir up controversy, what they were saying was more true than they realized; Jesus was, in many ways, a king who would dethrone Caesar. However, when they went to find Paul and his companions they were unable to find them. The Roman officials took the bait and arrested the Christians that had been captured including a man named Jason. They made them post bail and let them go, reinforcing the tensions that Christians had with both the religious and political authorities of the day.