

“Road Trip: Postcard from Thessalonica”

Acts 17:1-10

7/17-18/2010

Study Questions designed for you, your family, friends or small group

1. “Things are not always what they seem,” was a saying that captured Paul’s ministry to the Thessalonians- can you think of a time where that saying was true for you?
2. Think about someone you are “walking across the room” for, pointing them to Christ, through your actions and words- how do you think it’s going? How does God think it’s going?
3. Read again the account of Paul’s ministry there in Acts 17:1-10. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Why did Paul not stop in Amphipolis or Apollonia? Look up Acts 16:6,7.
 - b. Why did Paul start in the synagogue with the Jews, why not go directly to the Gentiles?
 - c. List the verbs in vv 2-3 that describe how Paul ministered. How would that look like in our day? For example what would it look like to reason with people today?
 - d. What was Paul’s message and what source did he use to make his point? (v 2)
 - e. How was their message received v 4 and what is significant about the group that followed Paul?
 - f. Why do you think they went after Jason? As best as you can, figure out how he fits in the story.
4. Turn to 1 Thess. 2:1 and see what Paul later said about that “road stop.” Why did he say it was not a failure?
5. Read 1 Thess. 1 and list out what really happened in the lives of those people that proves that the mission was a success. How are those qualities showing up in your life/our church?
6. When it comes to being a “joyful witness who lives and shares the good news”, are you able to use the Bible to point people to Jesus? Where do you feel inadequate in your understanding? Consider getting a hold of Tim Keller’s book *The Reason for God*, or *Questioning Christianity* a teaching series you can order at the Resource Desk or find online.
7. It was said of the Thessalonians, that they turned from idols to serve the living God. Reflect on where God has turned your life around and where He’s still turning it around.

Prayer: Thank God for those who pointed you to Christ, thank Him for the change He’s brought. Pray for those you are sharing Christ with and ask God to enlarge your faith as you trust Him to change lives.