

# Small Group Guide: Acts 17 - The Word on the Move

## Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by thanking God for His unchanging Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and application.

## Icebreaker Question

What's one tradition (family, cultural, or church) that you've questioned or examined more closely as an adult? What did you discover?

## Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Word Doesn't Change with Culture** - From Moses to the prophets, to Christ, to the apostles, to Paul, and to us today, the core message remains the same: Jesus is the Son of God who died, rose from the dead, and is coming to judge. Believe and be saved, or don't and face judgment.
2. **Two Cities, Two Responses** - Thessalonica and Berea received the same word from the same preacher, but responded completely differently based on their posture toward Scripture.
3. **Tradition vs. Scripture** - The Thessalonian leaders defended their tradition against the Word rather than testing their tradition by the Word.
4. **The Berean Standard** - True nobility and honor comes from receiving God's Word with eagerness and examining the Scriptures daily to see if what we're taught is true.
5. **Leadership Matters** - Leaders either open Scripture and lead people toward Christ, or they become obstacles in the path to Him.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Text

1. **Read Acts 17:1-9.** What pattern does Paul follow in every city he visits? Why do you think this was his consistent approach?

2. **Read Acts 17:10-15.** What specifically made the Bereans "more noble-minded" than the Thessalonians? What was different about their response?
3. The sermon mentioned that Paul's message had a "skeleton form" that remained the same everywhere. What were the core elements of this message?

## Going Deeper

4. The Thessalonian leaders were "filled with jealousy" rather than engaging Paul's arguments from Scripture. Why do you think they responded this way? What were they actually defending?
5. How does the statement "tradition replaced Scripture" for the Thessalonian leaders apply to churches or believers today? Can you think of examples?
6. The pastor said, "The word never finds a safe landing." What does this mean? Why is opposition to the gospel not evidence against it, but actually evidence for it (according to Moses' prophecy)?

## Questions for Leaders

### For Parents:

- What does your family see you get excited about? Sports? Success? Comfort? Or Scripture?
- How often do your children see you open your Bible outside of church?
- When you discipline or teach your children, do you point them to God's Word or to your preferences?

### For Church Leaders/Elders:

- Are decisions in your church made based on business wisdom, tradition, or Scripture?
- Do you elevate people to leadership based on worldly success or biblical qualifications?
- When was the last time you changed a church practice because you examined it against Scripture?

### For All Influencers:

- Who is watching your life? What are they learning about the priority of God's Word?

## Closing Reflection

The pastor ended with this challenge: "Commit today to be somebody whose only nobility is seeking out the truth of scriptures. Let all the other things be put in their proper place."

**Final Question:** What one specific step will you take this week to become more like the Bereans?

## **Closing Prayer**

Pray together that:

- God would give you humble hearts to examine Scripture daily
- You would value His Word above tradition, comfort, and cultural approval
- You would be faithful to pass down the unchanged Word to the next generation
- God would protect you from being obstacles in others' paths to Christ