SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 17

Noble Bereans and an Unknown God

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 17:11

"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 17

This week Paul walks into three cities, and in each one people meet the same Jesus in a different way. Some fight Him, some laugh at Him, and some open their Bibles to see if it is true. God is not far from you this week — open the Book every day and let Him show you.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Reasoning from the Scriptures

READ · ACTS 17:1–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Paul do for three Sabbaths, and what two things did he show from the Scriptures about the Christ (17:2–3)?

REFLECT

Paul showed that "the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead" (17:3). Why do you think a Savior who suffers is good news for a man who has suffered or caused suffering?

REFLECT

The mob said these men "have upset the world" and that there is "another king, Jesus" (17:6–7). What has Jesus turned upside down in your life since you met Him — and what part of your life still has a different king?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one place in your life where Jesus is not yet King, and pray today, "Jesus, You are King here too."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 17:11)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Berean Way

READ · ACTS 17:10–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two things did the Bereans do with Paul's message, and how often did they do the second one (17:11)?

REFLECT

The Bereans "received the word with great eagerness" and also checked it "daily" (17:11). Which comes harder for you — being eager to hear God's word, or taking the time to check it yourself? Why?

REFLECT

Luke says "therefore many of them believed" (17:12). How has actually reading the Bible for yourself, rather than only hearing about it, changed what you believe?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one thing you heard about God recently — from a sermon, a friend or a video — and look it up in the Bible today to see whether it is so.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 17:11)

DAY 3 OF 5

A City Full of Idols

READ · ACTS 17:16–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Paul see in Athens, how did it affect him, and where did he go to talk with people (17:16–17)?

REFLECT

Paul's spirit "was being provoked within him" by a city full of idols (17:16). What are the idols in your town, your family or your own heart — the things people trust to give them what only God can give?

REFLECT

Paul reasoned "in the market place every day with those who happened to be present" (17:17). Who "happens to be present" in your day — at work, on the block, in the dorm or on the tier — that you could talk with about Jesus?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one idol you have leaned on, tell God about it honestly, and ask Him to break its pull on you today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 17:11)

DAY 4 OF 5

The God Who Is Not Far

READ · ACTS 17:22–29

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List the things Paul says God does and gives in verses 24–26. What does Paul say about how near God is (17:27–28)?

REFLECT

God "does not dwell in temples made with hands" and is not served "as though He needed anything" — He "gives to all people life and breath and all things" (17:24–25). How does it change your prayers to know God does not need anything from you, but gives you everything?

REFLECT

Paul says God "is not far from each one of us" (17:27). When have you felt like you were groping in the dark for God? How does this verse speak to that time?

RESPOND — TODAY

Take three slow breaths today and thank God out loud for each one — He is the One who gives you "life and breath and all things" (17:25).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 17:11)

DAY 5 OF 5

Repent, a Day Is Coming

READ · ACTS 17:30–34

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What is God declaring to all people everywhere, and what proof has He given that He will judge the world (17:30–31)?

REFLECT

God is declaring "that all people everywhere should repent" (17:30). What would it look like for you to turn — not just feel bad, but change direction — in one specific area this week?

REFLECT

When Paul spoke of the resurrection, "some began to sneer," some said "We shall hear you again," and some "joined him and believed" (17:32–34). Which of those three have you been at different times in your life — and where are you now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person this week, in a sentence or two, why you believe Jesus rose from the dead and what difference it makes to you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 17:11)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The same message caused a riot in Thessalonica, a Bible study in Berea and a sermon on Mars Hill (17:5, 11, 22). Why do you think people react so differently to the same Jesus, and what does that mean for how we share Him?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The Bereans checked even an apostle against the Scriptures (17:11). How can we as a group help each other check what we hear without becoming critical or proud?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Paul started with the Bible in the synagogue and with creation on Mars Hill, but ended both times with Jesus raised from the dead (17:3, 24, 31). If you had two minutes with a man who has never opened a Bible, where would you start — and how would you get to Jesus?

MY PRAYER

God who made the world and is not far from me, give me a Berean heart that is eager for Your word and checks it every day, and help me to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 17:11

"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."