



G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

Grant me boldness and perseverance in my faith. Encourage me when I face opposition in your Name.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Acts 17:1-15)

1 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women. 5 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. 6 When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also; 7 and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." 8 They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. 9 And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.

10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 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. 12 Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men. 13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds. 14 Then immediately the brethren sent Paul out to go as far as the sea; and Silas and Timothy remained there. 15 Now those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they left.

O – Observe what God has said

What kind of reception did the gospel receive in Thessalonica? In Berea?

What does Paul share in Thessalonica and why do you suppose he shares this?

How do people respond to the gospel today? Why is this?

W – Work on Application

"Is your faith a public faith?" (public in that those from the outside looking in would be able to identify you as one of Christ's followers). Given the fallenness of this world and the evil around us, a public faith is a scrutinized, opposed, and attacked faith. We see it all around us and the very same tactics employed to hinder Paul and Silas then are used today. Name calling, societal pressure, and legislation seek to corner God's people, discourage the assembly, and silence our witness of the way, the truth, and the life.

Family Discipleship Resource

(Acts 17:1-15)

What should we remember to stand firm amid this kind of opposition?

How can you demonstrate bold faith this week?

Family Weekly Memory Verse: *"...for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."-Acts 17:11b*