

February 17, 2019

Morning Overview

Lesson: *From City to City*

Lesson Objective:

Today we jump back into the travels of Paul and Silas. Our stories take us to Thessalonica and Berea, two cities in modern day Greece. Paul and Silas' mission in both cities was the same: To preach the Good News! But the reception and encounters in the cities were vastly different. Our stories can be warnings that not everyone thinks the Good News is the Good News, so believe it to be unconventional or unsettling like those in Thessalonica. Some think it to be true and a well-spring that tells us of God's great love for us like in Berea. Regardless of the reception, Paul and Silas stayed true to preaching the Good News and so should we!

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is growing, but also experiencing persecution. Because of the persecution, followers of Jesus scatter.
- The scattered Church takes the Good News and tells others about Jesus.
- Paul and Silas continue to travel abroad preaching the Good News and encouraging other believers.
- Their travels to Thessalonica were met with resistance by Jews in the city. Jewish and city leaders caused a riot within the city and hunted down Paul and Silas.
- Paul and Silas' presence in the city was so unsettling they were accused of turning the world upside down.
- Paul and Silas left Thessalonica and went on to the city of Berea.
- In Berea the Jews and Greek leaders were more willing to listen to Paul and Silas. Many believed in Jesus.
- Eventually Jews from Thessalonica came and caused the Berean Jews to start a riot.
- Paul left Berea and travelled on to Athens, but Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea.

Scripture: Acts 17:1-15

Story: Vos Child's Story Bible, Pages 537-358

Scripture Memory for February: Acts 16:31 (ESV)

Believe (*point to your heart – trusting/believing in your heart*)

in the Lord Jesus, (*point upwards*)

and you (*point to kids/crowd*)

will be saved, (*fold arms around yourself, like a self-hug*)

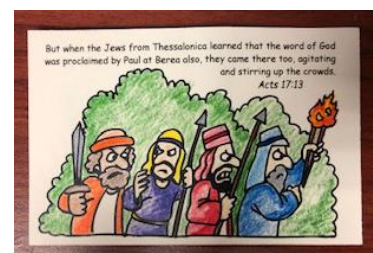
you (*point to kids/crowd*)

and your household. (*make a pointy top, like a mountain, over your head to show a "house"*)

Craft: Angry Mob

Supplies: Cardstock crowd, magnet

Instructions: 1. Color crowd picture.
2. Place magnet on back.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, what is your favorite place to visit (i.e., vacation site, ranch, grandparents' house, favorite restaurant)?

In our story today, Paul and Silas continue to travel to cities and visit followers of Jesus in those cities. Paul and Silas loved to go and tell others about Jesus and encourage followers of Jesus. Some of the places they visited were filled with nice people, and some places with not-so-nice people. Let's find out more about Paul and Silas' travels...

The Church Is Growing

The Church was growing. The Bible tells us every day more and more people believed the Good News! They believed that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from our sins and He rose from the dead! This was called the Good News. More and more people believed in Jesus and the Church was growing!

Followers of Jesus went to tell others about the Good News. The Good News was spreading far and wide. Some people, however, did not teach the right things. But the Apostles taught that good works were a result of believing the Good News.

Paul and Silas continued to travel. They traveled to many cities to tell others about Jesus! Paul and Silas would go into a city and there preach the Good News and encourage other Christians while they were there. But some people did not like what Paul and Silas had to say.

From City to City

Paul and Silas traveled through many cities and came to Thessalonica. In that city there was a synagogue. A synagogue was where Jewish people met to learn and be taught the Old Testament. Paul went into the synagogue as he always did. On each Sabbath day, for three weeks, Paul talked with the Jews about the Scriptures. Paul explained and proved that Jesus Christ must die and then rise from the grave! Paul told them, "This Jesus I am telling you about is the Christ." Christ was a very special name, it means "Messiah" or "Anointed One." That meant Jesus was the Promised One – the King who would come and save His people from their sins. Some of the Jews were convinced and joined Paul and Silas. Many of the Greeks – people who were not Jews – who worshiped the true God and many of the important women joined Paul and Silas too.

But the Jews became jealous of Paul and Silas. They did not like it that Paul and Silas were telling people about Jesus. The jealous Jews got some evil men from the marketplace, formed a mob (or angry crowd) and started a riot (or big mess).

Some men ran to the house of a man named Jason. They were looking for Paul and Silas. The men wanted to bring Paul and Silas out to the angry crowd. But these men did not find them. So, they dragged Jason and some other believers to the leaders of the city. The people were yelling, "These men have made trouble everywhere in the world. And now they have come here too! Jason is keeping them in his house. All of them do things against the laws of Caesar. They say that there is another king called Jesus."

Paul, Silas, Jason and the other Christians made a difference in the city of Thessalonica. They believed and obeyed Jesus, and this made others upset. They talked about how Jesus was King and that Jesus died and rose again from the dead. People did not like hearing this Good News! They did not want Jesus to be King; they were okay with a man named Caesar being king.

When the people and the leaders of the city heard these things, they became very angry. They made Jason and the others pay a lot of money to be let go. Once Jason and the other believers gave the city leaders the money, they were let go.

That same night followers of Jesus in Thessalonica sent Paul and Silas to another city named Berea. There Paul and Silas went to the synagogue. The Jews in Berea were better listeners than the Jews in Thessalonica. They were eager to hear the things Paul and Silas said. These Jews in Berea studied the Scriptures every day to find out if what Paul and Silas were saying were true. Many of the Jews in Berea believed in Jesus. Many important Greek men and women also believed. But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea, they came there, too. They upset the people and made trouble. So, the followers of Jesus in Berea quickly sent Paul away to the coast. But Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea. The men who took Paul went with him to Athens. Then they carried a message from Paul back to Silas and Timothy. It said, "Come to me as soon as you can."

Questions for Review with Younger Children

Have children answer "yes" or "no."

- The Church is growing – adding more and more people. (Yes)
- The Holy Spirit is growing the Church. (Yes)
- Did Paul and Silas go to Thessalonica? (Yes)
- Did Paul and Silas tell the Jews in Thessalonica about Jesus being the Messiah (or King)? (Yes!)
- Did the Jews in Thessalonica like what Paul said? (No! They did not.)
- Did the Jews in Thessalonica ask Paul to stop talking? (No! They were angry and started a riot)
- Did the Jews in Thessalonica go to Jason's house looking for Paul and Silas? (Yes)
- Did the city leaders make Jason and other followers of Jesus pay to be free? (Yes)
- Did Paul and Silas go to Berea? (Yes)
- Did the Jews in Berea listen to Paul and Silas and believe Jesus was the Messiah? (Yes)
- Did Paul go to Athens with Timothy and Silas? (No! He went alone but sent back word for them to join him.)

Questions for Review with Older Children

- Name some of the people in our story today.
- What do you think it means in our story that Paul, Silas, and the other Christians "turned the world upside down"?