

Search The Scriptures & Keep It Simple!

The Backstory

Acts 15-17

The Passage

Acts 17:10-34

A Lesson from Berea:

To follow Jesus well, search the Scriptures; check it out yourself!

- Be _____, but don't be _____.
Acts 17:11
- Remember, Satan loves to use the _____, _____ and _____.
Matthew 4:1-11/ Exodus 7:22/ 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12/ Revelation 13:11-14/ 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
- Never reinterpret Scripture in light of...
Proverbs 3:5-6/ Proverbs 16:25 & 1 Corinthians 4:4/ Matthew 7:13-14 & Proverbs 29:25/ Mark 7:6-8/ Galatians 2:11-14
 - Your _____
 - Your _____ or _____
 - The pressure of _____
 - Man-made _____
 - Your favorite Bible _____
- Don't worry, you don't have to be a _____.

A Lesson from Athens:

To share your faith effectively, keep it simple!

- How someone responds to Jesus is far more dependent upon their _____ than our _____.
1 Corinthians 2:1-5/ 2 Corinthians 4:2-5/ Romans 1:20-23
- We don't have to know all the _____.
John 1:45-46
- We do need to know *our* _____.
1 Peter 3:15-16/ John 9:13-34
- The Gospel in a nutshell:
1 Corinthians 15:1-4/ John 14:6 & John 3:16
 - Jesus died for _____.
 - He rose from the _____.
 - He offers _____ and _____ to those who follow Him.

Search The Scriptures & Keep It Simple!

The Backstory

Acts 15-17

The Passage

Acts 17:10-34

A Lesson from Berea:

To follow Jesus well, search the Scriptures; check it out yourself!

- Be **OPEN**, but don't be **GULLIBLE**.
Acts 17:11
- Remember, Satan loves to use the **BIBLE, MIRACLES** and **MORALITY**.
Matthew 4:1-11/ Exodus 7:22/ 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12/ Revelation 13:11-14/ 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
- Never reinterpret Scripture in light of...
Proverbs 3:5-6/ Proverbs 16:25 & 1 Corinthians 4:4/ Matthew 7:13-14 & Proverbs 29:25/ Mark 7:6-8/ Galatians 2:11-14
 - Your **LIFE EXPERIENCES**
 - Your **CONSCIENCE** or **FEELINGS**
 - The pressure of **PUBLIC OPINION**
 - Man-made **TRADITIONS**
 - Your favorite Bible **TEACHER**
- Don't worry, you don't have to be a **BIBLE SCHOLAR**.

A Lesson from Athens:

To share your faith effectively, keep it simple!

- How someone responds to Jesus is far more dependent upon their **OPENNESS** than our **ELOQUENCE**.
1 Corinthians 2:1-5/ 2 Corinthians 4:2-5/ Romans 1:20-23
- We don't have to know all the **ANSWERS**.
John 1:45-46
- We do need to know *our* **ANSWER**.
1 Peter 3:15-16/ John 9:13-34
- The Gospel in a nutshell:
1 Corinthians 15:1-4/ John 14:6 & John 3:16
 - Jesus died for **OUR SINS**.
 - He rose from the **DEAD**.
 - He offers **FORGIVENESS** and **ETERNAL LIFE** to those who follow Him.

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of October 11, 2020

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Larry talked about how we don't need to be Bible scholars but we still need to have a regular intake of the Bible in our lives. Which of the following ways of accessing the Bible have you tried? (Check all that apply to you):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading a daily devotional book (like Daily Bread) | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Group study questions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inductive Bible study (Precepts or Bible Study Fellowship) | <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to the Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading passages picked at random | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible study course (i.e. Beth Moore, Right Now Media) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading a One-year Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture memorization | |

What was your experience with those you've tried?

Which one has been the most helpful for you?

How has your attitude about the Bible and how you read/study/listen to it changed over the years?

2. The story of your own spiritual journey is one of the most powerful tools you have to tell others about Jesus. If someone were to ask you, "What has God done for you?" or "What difference has being a follower of Jesus made in your life?" what might you say regarding:

... how you relate to and view others?

... how you view what's most important?

... how you view yourself?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. When it comes to sharing our faith with others, how we live is just as important as the words we share.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-13 gives us a great picture of what sharing both our words and our life with others looks like. As you read through this passage...

1. Circle / highlight any words or phrases describing Paul's attitude or actions.
2. Underline the portions that can be a challenge for you to live out (keep it to four or less).
3. Put an X next to anything that confuses you.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-13 New International Version (NIV)

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ²We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. ⁷Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. ¹³And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

What would it look like for you to share both the Gospel and your life with the people you rub shoulders with the most?

2. This weekend we heard we don't need to be eloquent or have all the answers to share our faith, but how we share "our answer" has a lot to do with the kind of influence we have on others. The Bible gives us some guidelines for the way we are to go about sharing and talking with others. What can we learn about how to talk and interact with others from the following passages?

2 Timothy 2:23-26 New International Version (NIV)

²³Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Titus 3:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ²to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

The famous love chapter found in 1 Corinthians 13 easily applies to many of our conversations with others about hot topics in general and specifically when we talk with others about our Christian faith. Read verses 4-5 and replace the word "love" with "how I talk is." How accurate does this describe the way you talk when it comes to areas of disagreement or talking about your faith in Jesus?

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 New International Version (NIV)

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

3. The Bible plays a central role in helping us follow Jesus well, but we have to engage with it for it to help. What do you see in the following verses that could help motivate someone to spend more time interacting with God's Word?

Psalms 1:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

¹Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ²but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

Psalm 19:7-8; 11 New International Version (NIV)

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ¹¹By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 119:105 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalm 119:98-100 New International Version (NIV)

⁹⁸Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. ⁹⁹I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. ¹⁰⁰I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

Which of these benefits have you experienced in your own life?

Which of the benefits in these passages is most motivational for you?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are there any adjustments you want to consider making to help you keep God’s Word at the center of your life?

Possible ideas:

- Spending a little more time reading or listening to the Bible, praying or memorizing Scripture
- More focus on or time thinking through the sermon or Life Group Study Questions
- Process what you’re reading, learning, being challenged with or questioning with a friend or your group
- Other _____

2. Looking back on this week’s sermon and study, what is most important for you to remember?

Resources for Searching the Scriptures

Here are some websites and tools to help you grow in your desire and ability to study the Bible:

- **Daily Dose** – northcoastchurch.com/daily or text the keyword “daily” to 51400
- **Wayne Cordeiro** – SOAP Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer olivetree.com/blog/soap-cordeiro/
- **“How to Read the Bible like a Seminary Professor”** – four-week free online course from Dallas Seminary courses.dts.edu
- **Seven Minutes with God** – navigators.org
- **Online Bible and Bible study tools** – Biblegateway.com, Blueletterbible.org, Biblehub.com
- **Phone Apps** – YouVersion Bible, NIV Bible by Tecarta, Inc., Bible – Daily Reading & Study Bible by Olive Tree, firstfive.org by Proverbs 31 Ministry
- gotquestions.org – this website has solid answers to thousands of Bible questions
- **How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour** by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart



COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is a ministry of North Coast Church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God’s love in tangible ways through service to the community. COVID-safe projects have been created for your group. For ideas, check out NorthCoastCommunityService.org northcoastcommunityservice.org/community-service-impact/



NORTH COAST
FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY

NEW: FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY

Find yourself suddenly teaching your kids at home? We have some help for you! Check out our interview with some educational specialists in distance learning to get some encouragement. northcoastfamilysupport.com/