Sunday, November 1, 2026

Speaker: Mark Worth, Acts 17:1-15
The Powerful and Effective Word

CASCADES BAPTIST CHURCH

Small Groups Discussion Questions

GET TO KNOW YOU

Think of a time you double-checked information before believing it (like a product review, a news story, or advice). What made you want to verify it, and how did you feel when you found the truth?

INTO THE BIBLE

Read (Button) Acts 17:1-15

Q1 – In verses 2–3, what specific steps does Paul take when teaching in the synagogue? What core message is he trying to prove?

Q2 – The crowd accuses the believers of "turning the world upside down" (v. 6) and proclaiming another king named Jesus (v. 7). In what ways does true allegiance to Jesus clash with the "kingdoms" or values of our culture today?

Q3 – Why does Luke describe the Bereans as "more noble-minded" than those in Thessalonica? What two specific actions did they take in verse 11?

Q4 – The Bereans didn't accept Paul's words blindly, nor did they reject them outright; they tested them against Scripture. Why is this balance of openness and careful examination so critical for spiritual maturity?

APPLICATION

Paul's regular pattern was to start with what people knew (the Scriptures) to point them to Jesus. When you talk to others about your faith, how can you find common ground to share who Jesus is?

With so many voices, podcasts, and teachings available today, how can you practically develop the habit of "examining the Scriptures daily" to filter what you hear?

When God's Word challenges your current lifestyle, comfort, or mindset, which response does your heart tend to lean toward first; jealousy/excuses/unbelief like Thessalonica or eager acceptance/scrutiny like Berea?

OFF THE DEEP END

As you go throughout the remainder of your week, take time to compare/contrast these different sections of scripture:

Read **Acts 17:11** and **John 5:39-40**. Compare how both groups possessed and intense, disciplined habit of daily, rigorous Scripture study. Then contrast how these two groups recognized and understood scripture.

You can contrast the two distinct crowds within Acts 17 by looking at how they treated unfamiliar ideas. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22.** Compare and contrast these two groups with the instruction from 1 Thessalonians passage.

Looking at 1 Thessalonians 2:1–6, why do you think opposition often makes people question a leader's motives? How does Paul defend his integrity?

Compare Acts 17:5–9 with 1 Thessalonians 1:4–7. How is it possible to experience "severe suffering" and "joy from the Holy Spirit" at the exact same time? Have you ever experienced that combo?

How can we make sure our Bible study leads us closer to Jesus like in John 5:39-40, rather than just giving us cold data?