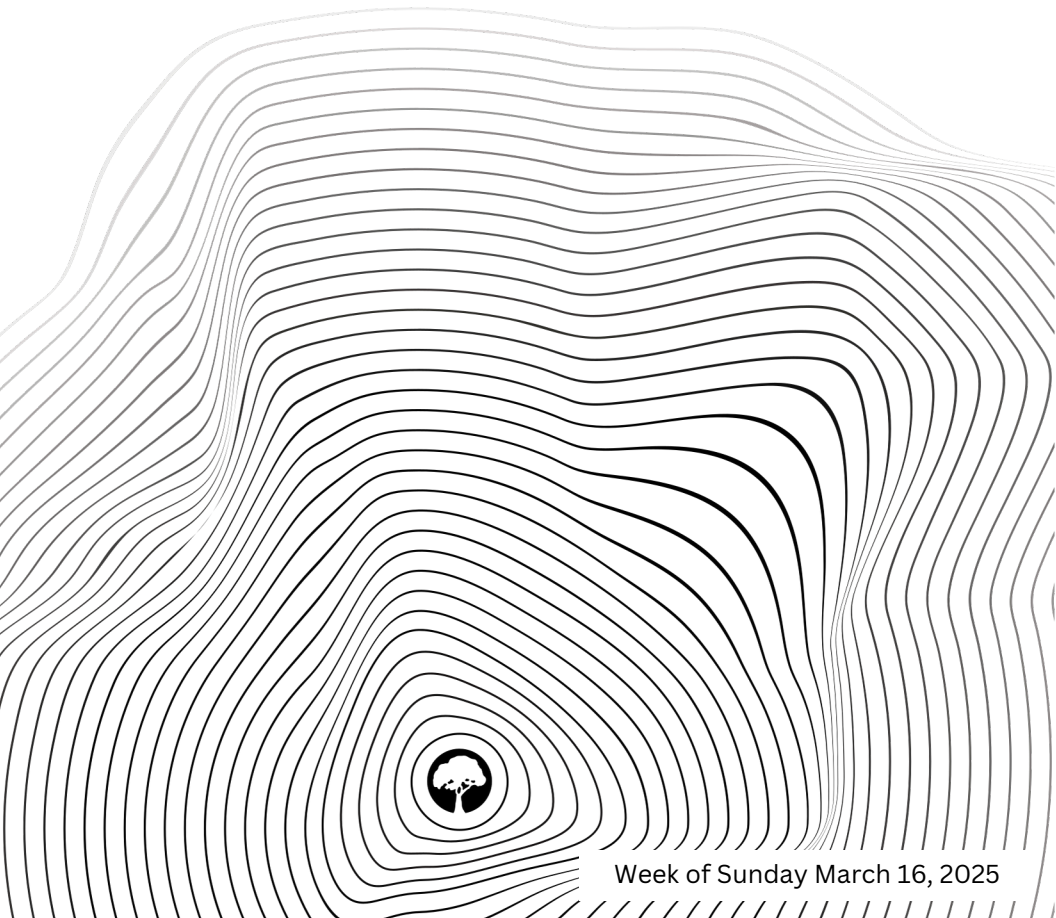


# GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word

*Leader Edition*



Week of Sunday March 16, 2025

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# Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

## **Introduction**

In Acts 17:1-9 Paul provides a framework for impacting our communities and advancing God's Kingdom. Paul's strategy involved establishing connections, expounding on Scripture, and expecting opposition. As we reflect on his methods, consider practical ways you can start with people close to you—friends, family, and co-workers—to share the message of Christ. Contemplate the power of God's word in your life and how you can respond with resilience when faced with challenges. Let's discuss how we can leave a lasting, God-centered mark in our world.

## **Disciple Measure**

**Force For Good:** How am I leaving a legacy that matters?

Notes:

# Discussion Questions

## Turning The World Right Side Up

1. **Opening Question:** What does "making a difference for God" mean to you personally? Share an example of someone you know who has made a significant impact for God's kingdom.

### HIGHLIGHT

*Have someone read aloud...*

[Acts 17:1-9](#)

### EXPLAIN

*Discuss the following questions...*

1. What can we learn from Paul's approach to sharing the Gospel?
2. Why do you think the Jews became jealous and responded the way they did?
3. Did anything surprise you from the Power of 4 statistics?

Have someone read aloud [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#).

4. Why is it important to not just read the Bible but to explain and understand it?
5. Reflect on the story of William Borden. What strikes you most about his commitment? How can we cultivate a "No Reserves, No Retreats, No Regrets" attitude in our own lives?

# Application Questions

Notes:

## APPLY

Discuss the following questions...

1. Where are the places where you can naturally connect with people and share your faith?
2. How can we ensure that our desire to serve God overseas doesn't overshadow our calling to reach those around us daily?
3. Which of these verbs-- reason, explain, prove, proclaim, and persuade-- do you find most challenging when sharing your faith? Why?
4. How can we prepare ourselves for potential opposition or attacks when living out our faith boldly?

## RESPOND

Force for Good: One opportunity to help turn our community right side up is on Saturday, April 5 at 9AM for Love Our City. There are some great opportunities to serve together.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more about the opportunities and sign up.



### Prayer:

Close by praying for courage and opportunities to turn your immediate world "rightside up" for Christ. Ask for God's guidance in living out the practical applications discussed.

A large grid of dots for taking notes, consisting of approximately 20 columns and 30 rows of small black dots.

# Questions for Families

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*Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.*

## **Acts 17:1-9**

### **Why did Paul go to the synagogue first in Thessalonica?**

Guide your child to see that Paul started there because people knew about God. Younger kids can think about familiar places to talk with friends, while older ones might discuss sharing ideas with people who have similar backgrounds.

### **How did Paul help people understand who Jesus is?**

Encourage younger kids by comparing it to explaining a favorite story. Older kids can talk about how explaining and reasoning helps change minds.

### **Why were some people mad at Paul and Silas, and what should we do when we're challenged for doing right?**

For younger kids, relate it to saying no when something isn't good, while older kids can discuss the importance of sticking to beliefs despite challenges.

# NT 260

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## **WEEK: 12**

- 1 Thessalonians 3
- 1 Thessalonians 4
- 1 Thessalonians 5
- 2 Thessalonians 1
- 2 Thessalonians 2

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 5:23-24

# Resources

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## Resources to Listen To

### Bible Engagement and "The Power of 4": A Key to Spiritual Growth



Check out the full "Power of 4" Study on Bible Engagement. Click [here](#).

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## Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at [groups@longhollow.com](mailto:groups@longhollow.com).

## D-Group Resources

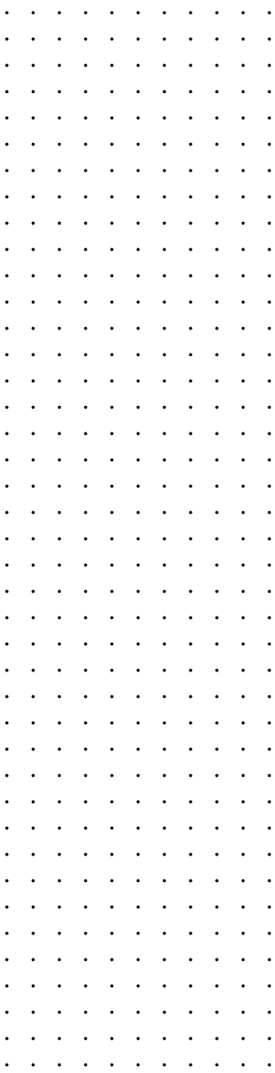
If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



# Commentary

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## Notes:



### **A Bit of Background**

To fully appreciate this section of Acts, it's helpful to know a bit about what's happening in the world at the time. Thessalonica, a large city in ancient Macedonia (now part of modern-day Greece), was a vibrant hub of trade and culture during the first century. It was part of the Roman Empire, which meant it had a mix of people with different beliefs and practices. Some people believed in the traditional Greek and Roman gods, while others, like the Jewish community, worshipped the one God of Israel.

This diverse setting is key to why Thessalonica was an important stop for Paul. He sought places where he could reach a variety of people with different backgrounds. By starting his teaching in the synagogue, he aimed to ground his message in the familiar before expanding his audience to include non-Jewish people intrigued by Jewish beliefs.

The passage also highlights the risks Paul and Silas took. Claiming Jesus as King was potentially dangerous under Roman rule, where pledging loyalty to the emperor was expected. The mob that formed against them illustrates the social and political pressures they faced. Despite these challenges, Paul and Silas's mission was all about spreading God's message, even when it stirred up trouble.

## Biblical Timeline







# Sermon Notes

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## Acts 17:1-9 CSB

After they passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As usual, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and rise from the dead: “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah.” Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a large number of God-fearing Greeks, as well as a number of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and they brought together some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob, and started a riot in the city. Attacking Jason’s house, they searched for them to bring them out to the public assembly. When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too, and Jason has welcomed them. They are all acting contrary to Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king Jesus.” The crowd and city officials who heard these things were upset. After taking a security bond from Jason and the others, they released them.

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## Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

### *Spirit-Led Follower*

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

### *Intentional Friend*

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

### *Humble Guide*

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

### *Force For Good*

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



**LONG HOLLOW**  
CHURCH