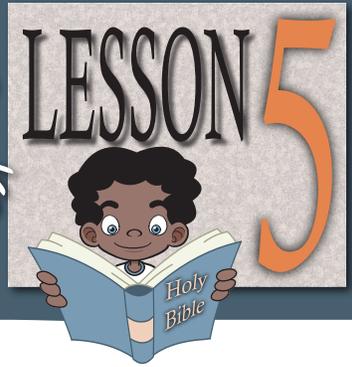


Questions and Quarrels at “T.B.A.M.”

Acts 17



New Testament 8
Part 1: ABCs OF ACTS 13-18

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 8 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children’s names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 17; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: “These were more fair-minded...in that they...searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11a).

OLDER CHILDREN: “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Acts 17:11”](#)
- [“Acts 17:25”](#)
- [“Acts 17:26-27”](#)
- [“Read Your Bible, Pray Everyday”](#)
- [“The More We Read the Bible”](#)
- [“Study Your Bible Every Day!”](#)
- [“Wise Kids”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

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- Betty Lukens’ felt pieces



- **Life of Paul (Series 2) A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)**
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- **[Map of Paul's Evangelistic Trips](#) (provided in activity sheets)**
- **Idols of Athens Visual (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=322>)**
- **Paul's Second Missionary Journey Visual (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=334>)**
- **Pictures of Paul and Silas preaching from older curriculum**
- **Pictures of various idols that many people worshipped in New Testament**

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must read and study my Bible every day and be willing to put into practice what I learn from it.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

What was the name of the woman who was praying by the river in Philippi in our last lesson? What happened when she and her friends heard the truth about Jesus? Why were Paul and Silas in prison? While they were in prison, to whom did they teach the good news about Jesus?

Have you ever tried to tell someone something very important, but they would not listen? Paul and the apostles taught everyone they could about Jesus, but many people wouldn't listen. Paul traveled to many places teaching about Jesus and some people listened, but others tried to stop him from teaching. Today, we will learn of more places he went and how the people reacted.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Have you ever known someone who stirs up trouble all the time? They don't like it when others get along or are doing good things, so they try to mess it up. Paul and Silas had that same problem when they were trying to teach others about Jesus. There was always a group of Jews who followed them because they didn't like the message Paul and Silas were teaching. They did whatever they could to cause problems. But no matter what, Paul and the other apostles kept teaching about Jesus. Let's see what happened after Paul and Silas left Philippi.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Continuing with our ABCs of Acts, chapter 17 corresponds to "Q," which stands for Questions and Quarrels at Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Mars Hill ("T.B.A.M.").
2. When Paul and Silas left Philippi (after being unjustly beaten and imprisoned), they traveled approximately 100 miles to the capital and largest city of Macedonia: Thessalonica—today called Thessaloniki. (Timothy was with them, but Luke was not.) Unlike Philippi, there was a synagogue in Thessalonica, and Paul went there, "as his custom was...reasoning with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead" (Acts 17:2-3). For three weeks, using numerous evidences from the Old Testament, Paul explained to the Jews how God fulfilled His promise to send a Savior (the Messianic promise) and how it was fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth.

3. While some Jews believed Paul’s message, the Jewish leaders felt threatened by it and were jealous that so many listened to Paul. Once again, they tried to silence Paul and Silas with the help of a mob and troublemakers who were probably “the idle unemployed of the marketplace” [*The Bible Background Commentary*, p. 371]. These men accused Paul and Silas of being revolutionaries who encouraged treason against Caesar. (Remember that the same accusations were made against Jesus.) Paul and Silas were called men who had “turned the world upside down” with their teaching about Jesus.
4. Christians in Thessalonica helped Paul, Silas, and Timothy get out of town by night.



HISTORICAL NOTE: In A.D. 49, shortly before the events of chapter 17, the Roman emperor Claudius expelled all the Jews from Rome because of riots that were started by a group of Jewish zealots. Zealots wanted to force Rome out of Palestine so that the Jews could have their own country again—like during the kingdoms of Saul, David, and Solomon. Like many today, they believed the land was their divine right. Today, zealots would likely be considered religiously motivated terrorists.

5. Then, they went on to the city of Berea (50 or 60 miles southwest). People in Berea were eager to listen to the gospel message about Jesus, and Paul and Silas were eager to teach them. The Bereans, however, were also very careful to not to be gullible and believe everything anyone said to them. They “searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). They were eager to learn more. But the Jewish leaders who caused trouble in Thessalonica followed Paul and his friends to Berea and stirred up crowds against them again. The Christians sent Paul away on a ship to Athens; Silas and Timothy joined him later.

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, SKIP POINTS 6 & 7.

6. In Athens Paul was very disturbed by the many idols in the city. There was even an altar to an “Unknown God” which had been left as a monument to sacrifices offered to a god the Athenians believed had stopped a plague many years before. Paul went to the synagogue to teach the Jews, but he also went to the marketplace every day to teach the Gentiles. Some of those who considered themselves to be very intelligent—and, therefore, not in need of God—called Paul a “**babbler**” and made fun of his message.



HISTORICAL NOTE: The Epicureans (vs. 18) followed the teachings of Epicurus (341-270 B.C.) who taught that pleasure and happiness should be the daily goal of mankind. They believed pleasure could be achieved by “avoiding excess and fear of death, by seeking tranquility and freedom from pain, and by loving other people.” If deities existed, they were not involved in earthly events.

The Stoics were followers of Zeno (334-262 B.C.). Their name is derived from *stoa* or porch. They believed in a multitude of deities, with an “absolute purpose or will” to which each individual must conform his will.



NOTE: The Greek expression translated “**babblers**” originally referred to birds pecking at grain or scraps of food on the ground. Over time, it came to mean a worthless person, or, in modern slang terms, a “birdbrain.”

Some of the Greeks apparently thought Paul was preaching about two new gods: Jesus (a male deity) and the resurrection (in Greek, “Anastasis,” which was a woman’s name).

- Paul preached about Jesus to the people of Athens on the Areopagus (also called Mars Hill, named for the Greek god of war, Ares or Mars). Since the Athenians didn’t know much, if anything, about the Scriptures, Paul started at the beginning, with Creation, to show them that their Unknown God was really the Great Creator of the Universe and the heavenly Father who had sent Jesus to die for their sins. However, when he told them about Jesus’ resurrection, many refused to believe or to listen any more. But there were some—even among the “very intelligent ones” at the Areopagus—who were willing to listen to the gospel message and follow the teachings of Jesus.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles “[Apologetics and the Growth of the Early Church](#)” by Eric Lyons, “[Is Christianity Logical? Part II](#)” by Dave Miller, and “[Only True Christianity is Defensible](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for discussions relevant to Paul’s discourse at Mars’ Hill.



HISTORICAL NOTE: While Greeks believed in some kind of resurrection, they did not believe in bodily resurrections; the body was considered to be evil and, therefore, something to be thrown aside completely. The idea of “dualism” was developed from the philosophical teachings of Socrates and Plato. This was the belief that whatever one did with his body would have no lasting effect as long as the heart/spirit were good.

- Each place that Paul and his friends went, they wanted to teach others about Jesus. But the people hearing the message had the responsibility to listen and to choose how they would respond. Many in Athens heard the message, but sadly, most refused to obey. The Thessalonians and the Bereans, on the other hand, wanted to learn more and more every day. We have the same responsibility to listen to God’s Word (by reading it) and do what it says. If someone tries to tell me to do something that I am unsure about, I must be willing to study my Bible and search for answers.
- The Bible is like a road map that shows us the way to heaven; but it will not help us if we never open it and read each page and listen to our teachers, preachers, and parents when they teach us about it. The Bible is the most important book in the world. Many people in the world do not have Bibles. We should make good use of the Bibles that we have to study God’s Word each day and try our best to follow God’s road map!

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Fair-Minded Bereans Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” p. 17 provided in activity sheets)
- Missing Letters: Write the names of most or all of the New Testament books on sentence strips. Make identical strips with one or more letters missing from each book name, depending on the age of your children. Let the kids fill in the blanks with plastic letters in the spaces.
- “Bible Bowling” game: Write review questions from this and previous lessons on strips of paper and put them inside empty tissue tubes. Line up the tubes, spacing them so that, hopefully, the kids will hit only one tube at a time. Then let each child “bowl” (with a tennis or Nerf® ball) to knock over one roll. Read the question inside to him/her. ([N.T. 8 Review Questions](#) provided on curriculum Web site)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” p. 17 provided in activity sheets)
- Sword Drills: Divide the class into teams, or have them work individually, making sure each team/person has a Bible. Call out one scripture at a time, and tell the students to find it as quickly as they can. The student or team that finds it first gets to read it out loud (and can receive a small prize of some sort).
- Bible Book Disks: Write the books of the Bible on plastic milk jug lids. Prepare three or four sets so that you can divide the class into three or four teams. Mix up the lids (by set), and tell the students to put the books of the Bible in the correct order. Another option: give each team a “section” (O.T. History, N.T. epistles, prophets, etc.) to put in order, or let the entire class work together to complete all of the Old and/or New Testaments.
- “[Paul and Silas Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Continue working on ABCs of Acts booklet. (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” p. 17 provided in activity sheets)
- Sword Drills: Divide the class into teams, or have them work individually, making sure each team/person has a Bible. Call out one scripture at a time, and tell the students to find it as quickly as they can. The student or team that finds it first gets to read it out loud (and can receive a small prize of some sort).
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- “[Paul and Silas Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - Acts 17
 - *Discovery* magazine article: “Early Christians: Students of the Scriptures,” [December, 2009](#)
 - *Paul’s Journeys*, by Loyal Kolbrek, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: remove the sentence starting with “He felt the Spirit...” on p. 6)

SONGS:

“ACTS 17:11”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Christian Evidences Memory Work](#)” CD)

“ACTS 17:25”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Christian Evidences Memory Work](#)” CD)

“ACTS 17:26-27”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Christian Evidences Memory Work](#)” CD)

“READ YOUR BIBLE, PRAY EVERY DAY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: See Internet)

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you’ll grow, grow, grow. (REPEAT)

Grow, grow, grow, grow,

Grow, grow, grow.

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you’ll grow, grow, grow.

(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.)

If you neglect your Bible and forget to pray, you’ll shrink, shrink, shrink.

(Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying “No,” and like a child shrinking.)

(REPEAT)

Shrink, shrink, shrink, shrink,

Shrink, shrink, shrink.

If you neglect your Bible and forget to pray, you’ll shrink, shrink, shrink.

(Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying “No,” and like a child shrinking.)

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you’ll grow, grow, grow.

(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.) (REPEAT)

Grow, grow, grow, grow,

Grow, grow, grow.

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you’ll grow, grow, grow.

(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.)

“THE MORE WE READ THE BIBLE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “The More We Get Together”)

The more we read the Bible,
The Bible, the Bible,
The more we read the Bible,
The happier we’ll be.

We’ll learn about Jesus,
And how we can please Him.
The more we read the Bible,
The happier we’ll be.

“STUDY YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: Chorus from “Brighten the Corner Where You Are”)

Study your Bible every day.
Tell others what it has to say,
For it tells of Jesus, Who will help us on our way.
Study your Bible every day!

“WISE KIDS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock”)

Wise kids read their Bibles every day.
(open hands like book)
Wise kids read their Bibles every day.
Wise kids read their Bibles every day,
And we trust upon the Lord! (point to heaven)

Wise kids learn to pray every day.
(fold hands in prayer)
Wise kids learn to pray every day.
Wise kids learn to pray every day,
And they wait upon the Lord! (point to heaven)

So read your Bible, pray, and you’ll be wise. (open hands like book, then fold in prayer)
So read your Bible, pray and you’ll be wise.
So read your Bible, pray and you’ll be wise,
No matter what your size!

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

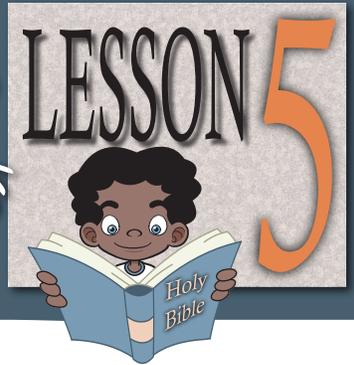
*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Questions and Quarrels

at “T.B.A.M.”

Acts 17



New Testament 8
Part 1: ABCs OF ACTS 13-18

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 17; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21

MEMORY WORK:

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Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

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- Pictures of Paul and Silas preaching from older curriculum
- Pictures of various idols that many people worshipped in New Testament

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must read and study my Bible every day and be willing to put into practice what I learn from it.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 8 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under "N.T. 8 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review briefly Sunday morning's lesson. (See [N.T. 8 Review Questions](#) for example questions), as well as other ABCs covered to this point.

Further emphasize the importance of reading our Bibles every day. Use Bible drill games on basic Bible facts.

WITH OLDER CHILDREN: Read and discuss vss. 24-31.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning's lesson.

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