

# WE ENCOUNTER THE FATHER DAILY

CCC DNA Statements

*God the Father speaks to us through the Bible  
and we commune with him through prayer.*

Scripture Passages: Acts 17:1–5

## OVERVIEW

This passage describes the reception of Paul’s message by Jews in Thessalonica, including both Jews and Greeks who were persuaded to believe, and great opposition from others who were jealous of Paul’s following. This story is in contrast with those believers in Berea who not only received Paul’s message “with great eagerness,” but also “examined the scriptures everyday” to see what was true. In today’s lesson, we’ll discuss the importance of reading [examining] Scripture daily and the value of community as we seek to discern truth together.

## GROUP OBJECTIVES

- Listen to the Spirit as you read the texts aloud together (Acts 17:1–15).
- Consider how those in Berea might be an example to us in our study of scripture.
- Encourage and build up others in your group to be consistent in Bible study.
- Listen to group members with discernment who may view the text from a different perspective.

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Share about your favorite family vacation.
- When you gather with friends or family, are there topics of conversation you always talk about?
- How about topics you always avoid?

## OPENING PRAYER

- Pray that we will recognize God’s presence and that his Word will speak to our hearts in a transformative way that honors him.

## BIBLE STUDY

- Set up the text with a brief summary of what has happened in the book of Acts so far.

Read Acts 17:1–15.

- What was the key difference between how the Jews in Thessalonica and the Bereans treated Paul and Silas?
  - » Why were the Bereans referred to as those of more noble character?
  - » Paul preached the same message to both groups. Why did one group reject his teaching and another accept it? What was the Bereans’ conclusion about Paul’s message?
- How does our personal study of Scripture and encountering God daily help us in discovering truth when we come together as a group?
  - » How should we handle situations in our group where two Christians have different interpretations or understandings of Scripture?
- What role did listening and humility play in both of these encounters with Paul’s teaching?
  - » What does it look like to truly listen to others’ viewpoints?

- » Has there ever been a time when you questioned something someone was saying but you didn't voice your questions for fear of being perceived poorly or creating conflict? How can we encourage one another in this?
- » How can we best listen and respond to those we encounter who may have differing viewpoints?
- » How can our group discern truth together?
- How does the contrast between these groups speak to us in how we should treat messages we hear? If we disagree with their message, how should we respond?
  - » From a pastor or Christian leader?
  - » From a friend?
  - » From a non-believer or from the culture?
- How can we best love others while holding to the truth of Scripture?
  - » How do we already do this well?
  - » How can we improve?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

- Share prayer requests and close in prayer together.
- Pray for God to give you a wise and discerning heart as you examine the scripture, both individually and in community with your group members.
- Ask God how you can encourage one another and build each other up.
- Pray that God will reveal more of himself to you each time you read scripture.