



Week of April 28, 2019

Acts 17:1-9

^{NRS} **Acts 17:1** After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures,

³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you."

⁴ Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

⁵ But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house.

⁶ When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also,

⁷ and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus."

⁸ The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this,

⁹ and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Describe a circumstance when you might have been called a "rabble rouser".
- B. What were you taught about the USA that you later found out was not exactly true? What were you taught about Christianity that you later had to "unlearn"?

Bible Study Questions:

- 1. Why do you think the mob attacks Jason?
- 2. What is the importance of the specific argument being made in verse 3? What is Paul convincing them of?
- 3. In verse 5, why do you think the Jews are jealous? How do you imagine they enlisted the help of "ruffians"?
- 4. In verse 7, what is the purpose of bringing up the "king" argument? To what extent do you see faith and secular society intertwined?
- 5. In verse 6, what do you think they mean by "turning the world upside down"? When have you felt that your life was turned upside down?
- 6. How has your faith turned your world upside down? How should it?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways to see and live faith differently, and ways in which faith can challenge your outlook on life.