



THE GOSPEL: PASSES THE FACT CHECK

Open it

1. When was a time that someone told you something that you couldn't even believe. What did you do to figure out if you could trust them or not?

Daily devotions

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Acts 17:1–15

2. How would you summarize in your own words what happened in this passage?
3. What is something you noticed in this passage about God's character?
4. How does this passage fit into the "big picture" of what God is doing in this passage?
5. What is one thing that you learned from reading this passage you didn't know before? If you don't have an answer, read the passage again more slowly and ask God to teach you something new.

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: REJECTING TRUTH (PART 1) — A CASE STUDY

Read Acts 17:1–9

Thessalonica: When Paul arrived in Thessalonica, he preached about Jesus in the Jewish synagogues for three weeks, explaining from Scripture that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Many people believed, but some of the Jewish leaders became “jealous” and started stirring up trouble in the city and brought the Romans into the mix. So let’s make things simple: Paul clearly explained the truth about Jesus, using the Bible to do so, to people who believed in the Bible. Instead of receiving the message and accepting Jesus as the Messiah, they became hard hearted and rejected the truth and those who taught it.

6. What dangers are there when a church doesn’t listen to the truth of Scripture that is clearly laid out in front of them? What can a church do to avoid rejecting the truth?

7. What are some things that can cause people to reject the truth that is clearly presented to them?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✎ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Humility to see the truth, understand it, and respond appropriately.
- Pray for people who will hear the truth — that they will hear it and respond in faith.

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: REJECTING TRUTH (PART 2)

Read Acts 17:1–9

There are many different reasons that people will reject the truth. It may be because they simply don't like what it is or perhaps it would require them to change something they don't want to change. Sometimes people don't want to accept the truth because admitting it's true would cause them to lose something that they have. Sometimes people will even reject the truth because it's difficult to hear and means they are wrong, and some people just don't want to deal with that!

Regardless of the reason for rejecting truth, it's never good to do it. At the end of the day, it's better to accept the truth and work through whatever that entails than deny it, because that will only bring greater problems. This happens a lot when we read the Bible. We all have different struggles that we are working through in our lives, and when the Bible calls us out on those, we have to be willing to admit we are wrong and what God's Word says is true. Are you willing to accept the truth?

8. **When have you struggled with accepting the truth? Maybe it was something your parents, a friend, or even one of your youth leaders told you! How did you respond in the end?**

9. **As you've been working through this study perhaps God has put something on your heart that you know you need to deal with and accept. What is that thing?**

Would you be willing to share that thing with your parents? With your small group leader?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Pray that your own attitudes don't prevent you from accepting the truth.
- Pray that God will give you the courage to stand for the truth, even when it's hard to do!

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: EXAMINING TRUTH (PART 1) — A CASE STUDY

Read Acts 17:10–15

Berea: After Paul left Thessalonica, he ended up in Berea where he did the exact same thing he did in Thessalonica: he went to the Jewish synagogue and started preaching about Jesus from the Scriptures! But these people responded very differently than the Jewish leaders in Thessalonica. Instead of becoming upset and starting mob riots in the city, they examined the Bible every day to see if what Paul was saying to them was the truth. And can you believe it? They saw that what Paul was teaching was in fact the truth and that the Bible had been teaching it all along!

The Bereans were willing to examine the Bible and discover what the truth was, and then they acted in agreement with the truth! Who knows? That could have been very difficult for them to do. The Bible doesn't really tell us. But what we do see is that two groups of people heard the same message and responded very differently to the truth found in the Bible!

10. How can examining the Bible help assure us of the truth?

11. Is there anything about Christianity that seems difficult for you to accept? What does the Bible have to say about it?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Pray that God would give you a humble heart to learn the truth from the Bible and be willing to obey it.
- Ask that God would help bring you peace about the different things you may be struggling to accept.

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: EXAMINING THE TRUTH (PART 2)

Read Acts 17:10–15

There is a saying in the Church today: “We should be good Bereans!” Do you know what that saying means now? It means that we shouldn’t just take what pastors, leaders, or anyone says about God and the Bible at face value. Instead we should do some fact checking! And fact checking can take some good, hard work at times. But in today’s world, it’s easier than ever! With Google and Bible searches, we can find answers to our questions easier than we ever could before.

You need to make sure that what you are believing about God and the Bible are true facts and that the Bible actually teaches those things. Someday, if you stand before God and tell Him that you believed the wrong stuff because someone told you so, don’t expect Him to let you off the hook. When people teach you about the Bible, you need to look at it yourself! That’s why we have you read the Bible with each of these devotionals!

How does a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word (Psalm 119:9).

12. What tools do you have that you could use to study and understand the Bible?

13. Why is it important for you to examine the Bible yourself instead of just taking someone else’s word for it, even a pastor’s?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Pray that God would give you a desire to know the truth.
- Pray that God would give you a strong desire to study and know the Bible!
- Pray that you would be able to understand the Bible more and more every day!

Day 6

TODAY'S THEME: HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT'S TRUE?

Read Acts 17:11

All this talk about rejecting, examining, and accepting the truth is great. But maybe you're asking, "How do I even know Christianity is true? After all, there are lots of different religions who all think they are the truth." Great question! I have to be honest. I won't even be able to start to answer that question fully in this one page, but I can start!

One of my favorite things about the Bible is that it is a book made up of history. What I mean is that the Bible talks about nations like the Egyptians, the Persians, the Babylonians, and the Romans to just name a few, and so do your history books at school. The Bible is rooted in human history because that's how God has worked! So yes, the Bible tells us about God and how we can have a relationship with Him and how we ought to live in that relationship with God, but it does so through history. That's only one little reason you can believe that this whole thing is the truth! The Bible agrees with history more than any other religious text in the world!

But, there are more places you can look for these answers as well. If you're asking those questions, awesome! Look into it! At the bottom of this page you'll find some helpful resources if you'd like to study more about this on your own.¹

14. How do we know anything is true?

15. How would you respond if your friend at school asked how you know what you believe is true?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Pray that God would continue to reveal the truth to you as you seek it out.
- Pray that God would give you an assurance of what you believe and evidence for why you can believe it to be true.

¹ "Can we prove the Bible is true?" by Mike Matthews. Can be found at answersingenesis.org; *More Than A Carpenter* by Josh McDowell
Note: This study guide was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson, Village Bible Church. www.villagebible.church