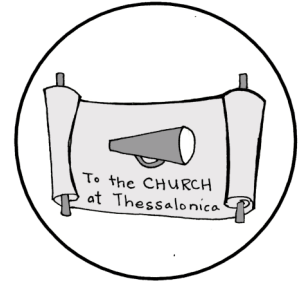


Lesson #2-33*The Church at Thessalonica*

Acts 17:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

**Key Verse:**

You received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

The Point:

We are called to be examples of God's love to those around us.

Unit Theme (April 19—May 10)

God Works through Us

Comparing Stories

Compare Acts and 1 Thessalonians.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet (one per group)
- † Pens or pencils

Instructions:

1. **Today's lesson includes two readings. The first comes from the Book of Acts, and takes place in Thessalonica, the capital of Macedonia. The second is from Paul's first letter to the people of Thessalonica, after he had been there.**
2. **As groups, look at both readings and compare them. Use the Activity Sheet to help you think through the differences and similarities.**
3. Hand out the Activity Sheet, and suggest groups have one person read each passage.
4. Afterward, lead a whole-group discussion of their findings. Be sure to point out the differences in style. Acts is a narrative of the action, and 1 Thessalonians is a letter that alludes to the action that has happened.
5. **Let's do a little exercise to see if you can tell the difference between the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. When I read from Acts, put your hands up. When I read from First Thessalonians, put your hands down and stand up.** Have a copy of each reading in front of you and alternate reading from one or the other, at your discretion. Read as many examples as the class shows interest.

Comparing Stories

Compare Acts and 1 Thessalonians.

	Acts 17:1-9	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Who are the characters?		
Where is the setting?		
Who is the narrator?		
What are three important verbs (action words)?		
What are three important nouns (people, places, or things)?		