

VOYAGER

Experiences That Shape Our Faith

About the Series: Experiences are powerful and can shape our Christian faith. But experiences should not be what defines our faith. Rather, it should serve to strengthen our faith and affirm what we already know to be the facts of our faith as recorded in the Scriptures. In this sermon series, we explore the journeys of Apostle Paul and how encountering life-changing experiences can teach valuable life lessons to voyagers like us who are on a journey called life.

Part 8

Guide for Life

Acts 17:1-15 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

DISCUSS

The world is filled with people who think that only fools and irrational people believe in the Bible as the Word of God—a guide to help us navigate life and find purpose and direction. As a follower of Jesus, how do you view Scripture? Read Acts 17:1-15.

The Bible is God's authoritative word and the only guide for a fulfilled life (v. 1-2)

- What was Paul and Silas' stand on why they reasoned from the Scriptures when they talked with the people at the local Jewish synagogue?
- How does it show in your life that you believe that the Word of God is the authority and the only guide for fulfilled life?
- Share verses from the Scripture that you have been using as a guide in your life.

- Do you believe that a life lived apart from the authoritative guide of God's Word is utterly meaningless? Why do you say so?

The Bible's central message is God's redemption plan through the Savior Jesus (v. 3-4)

- What specifically in the Scriptures did Paul and Silas talk to the Thessalonians about (v. 3)? How did many people respond to the message shared by Paul and Silas?
- Would you be able to have an intelligent discussion about *why* the Savior you believe in had to die and rise again and *how* Jesus of Nazareth, born of the Virgin Mary, is that Savior?
- What should you do so that you can clearly and confidently share the way of salvation through the Savior Jesus Christ?

The revolutionary message of the Bible should bring about life change (v/ 5-9)

- Why were those who were not persuaded by the truth of the Bible envious? What happened after they formed a mob to stir up the city against Paul and Silas?
- In verse 6, what did it mean that the message taught by Paul and Silas turned the world upside down?
- How does the Gospel bring about life change? What specific changes happened in your life when you believed and accepted Him as your Savior?

Every truth claim must be checked against the teachings of God's word (v. 10-12)

- How did the people in the city of Berea respond to the teachings of Paul and Silas (v. 11)?
- Do you fact-check what you read and listen to to make sure that it is accurate and consistent with the Scriptures and not simply verses taken out of context? Why is it so important to do so?

REFLECT

Throughout church history, men and women have died giving people access to the Bible in their heart language through Bible translation. The Bible is worth dying for because it is God's Word which contains truth to change and save lives. Examine yourself:

- How important is the Scriptures to you?
- Do you treasure and read the authoritative Word of God daily and live out what it says?
- Do you consider it as the ultimate guide for life?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You that Your Word was given to us to be our guide for a fulfilled life. Thank You that from Your Word, I learned of Your plan of redemption through Christ Jesus. Thank You that the Bible message is revolutionary and brought life change to me when I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior. Thank You that the truth of Your Word is consistent and not dependent on people. May the Holy Spirit help me to be faithful in reading and learning from Your Word. As I look to Your Word to guide me, enable me to live out in such a way that people may be led to Jesus, in whose precious name I pray. Amen.