

### Going deeper

Acts 17 gives a brief description of the planting of the church in Thessalonica, an important town in Thessalonica on the main route from Rome to the East. We are told that Paul debated in the Synagogue for three Sabbaths, leaving the impression he was only in Thessalonica for about three weeks. However, he probably carried on teaching in other places for quite a while after that before being forced to leave. The letter to the Thessalonians was written only a year or two after these events, probably when he was in Corinth (cf. Acts 18). Apart from (debatably) Galatians it is the earliest of Paul's letters that we have.

### Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

5. How does the description of Paul's ministry in Thessalonica correspond with the description in Acts 17?
6. What new things do we learn from this passage about Paul's ministry in Thessalonica?
7. How does Paul's relationship with God help him in his mission?
8. What kind of relationship did Paul have with the Christians in Thessalonica?
9. What was particularly encouraging about the way people had responded to the word of God in Thessalonica? (cf. 1:2-3,6-8).

***Now do the applying it to our lives questions...***

# GROWTH TEAMS



**Week Beginning  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

### Growth Team News

Why not consider joining a Growth Team? They are a great chance to both encourage and be encouraged by other Christians.

This week we continue our series on Acts 16-17, seeing how God's plans work out on the mission field.

**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever**

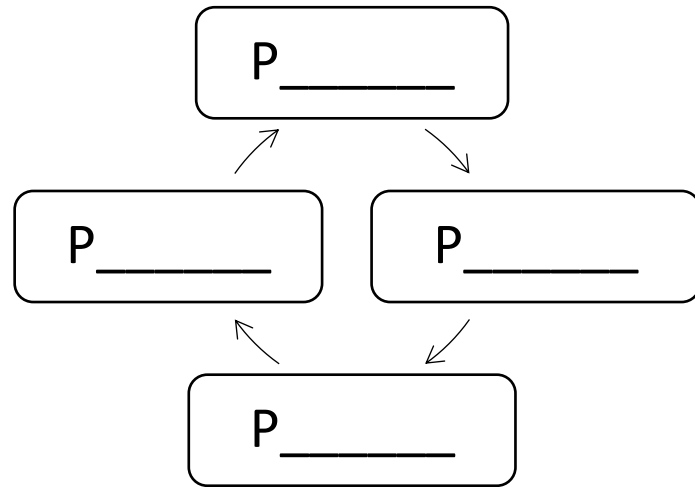


## God's Plan Perseveres

Acts 17:1-15 (page 1113)

Space to take notes on the talk

### A Cycle of Mission:



• A Cycle of Mission: \_\_\_\_\_

• A Cycle of Mission: \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ's Ambassadors:

• A Cycle of Mission: \_\_\_\_\_

### Starter question

❖ What have you had to persevere at most in life?

### Responding to the talk

1. What surprised, challenged or encouraged you most about this week's talk?
2. Read Acts 17:1-4
  - a. What is impressive about Paul's actions given what has just happened? (cf. Acts 16:22-24)
  - b. Why do you think Paul goes to the Synagogue first? (cf. Rom. 1:16)
  - c. What is the outline of Paul's message as recorded here? How does it compare with the summary in 1 Cor. 15:3-8?
  - d. What do you think persuaded some of the Jews?
3. Read Acts 17:5-9
  - a. Why were other Jews jealous?
  - b. What is un-Jewish about their actions?
  - c. In what sense was the charge they brought against Paul and Silas true and in what sense was it a distortion of the truth?
  - d. How do you think Paul and Silas felt about having to leave? (cf. 1 Thes. 2:17)
4. Read Acts 17:10-15
  - a. How is the pattern of mission in Berea the same as in Thessalonica?
  - b. What is different this time around? Why is it different?
  - c. Why does Paul ask for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

### Applying it to our lives

11. What aspects of Paul's mission are a model for ordinary Christians in the U.K. today?
12. What guidelines can we glean from these passages about when it is right to persevere if things are tough and when it is right to preserve ourselves and move on?