



HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 5: Oct 10-16

“Fake news” is a label made popular in politics and social media. It’s a natural byproduct of this information age where endless truth claims are broadcast quickly and easily. In such an age, how do we filter out the junk and instead give our attention to what’s real? And not only with political issues, but how about with the gospel? In this age, we need to hone our skills or habits for distinguishing between what’s fake news and what’s truly good news!

MAIN TEXT: Acts 17:1-15

CONNECT

1. What comes to your mind when you think about fake news? Do you just try to ignore it or does it make you respond with anger, frustration, or some other emotion?
2. How was this past week for you? What was the highlight?

LEARN

3. Pastor Thomas pointed out how verse 5 says the Jews (likely the Jewish leaders) were jealous of Paul and Silas. Why were these leaders jealous and what does that reveal about their true motivations behind the charges in verses 6-7?
4. Two charges are made about the early Church in verses 6-7.¹ Think about both of them. In what ways are these charges true and in what sense might they be untrue?
5. What qualities did Pastor Thomas mention that the Bereans had that make them receptive to Paul and Silas’ teaching?
6. Paul can’t stay in one place for long until he’s run out of town! This could feel defeating, but what do you notice about Paul’s response whenever opposition comes?

(See next page for application questions)

¹ The phrase in v. 6, “turned the world upside down” (ESV), can also be understood as “caused trouble all over the world” (NIV) or “stirred up trouble throughout the world” (NET).

APPLY

7. At least part of the reputation of the early Church was that it had “turned the world upside down” or “caused trouble all over the world.” What kind of reputation do you think Calvary should have in Erie, Boulder and Thornton?
8. As Jesus-followers, we do proclaim “that there is another king, Jesus,” yet we aren’t seeking to overthrow the government (see 1 Pet 2:13-17)! How could the gospel make us better citizens of earthly “kingdoms” rather than a threat to them?
9. We are just one-click-away from unlimited quantities of teaching and preaching through podcasts, streaming videos, and other online resources. In light of the Bereans’ example, how should we be “examining the Scriptures daily to see if [what we’re hearing or watching] is so”?
10. What else did you find significant, challenging, or encouraging from this week’s sermon?