

Marinating in God's Word: Acts 17:1-9

Sent! They were and we are. So we're learning from Acts about what it means to be sent by Jesus, with Jesus' people, to do Jesus' work, in the power of Jesus' Spirit!

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- As Paul told about Jesus in each city, his habit was to begin with the Jews (v. 1-3). Why? He had a clean slate to tell them about their Messiah, but we do not. What history makes our proclamation to Jews complicated? Can we still welcome them to Jesus? How?
- Paul told them that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer (v. 3). Do you believe that? If so, why? Why did the Jews then, and why do many people now, find that a foreign concept, or even offensive?
- Paul proved his points about Jesus from the scripture, which in their time was only the Old Testament. What Old Testament passages point to Jesus? What New Testament passages would you add to make the case for Jesus?
- If you were sharing the good news with someone, what would you emphasize? What parts of the good news most readily connect with the people around us? Paul centered his message on Jesus as Messiah, and that's still the center for us. What parts of Jesus' life and actions are key to connecting with people in our day?
- They accused Paul and his partners of "turning the world upside down" (v. 6). Were they right? In what ways are the gospel's values "upside down" from the culture's values?

Next week our focus will be on shaping the future through prayer.