# "People of one book" – Discussion Questions on Acts 17v1-15

*Feel free to choose the questions that you feel are most interesting or relevant for your group – there is no need to go through them all! This passage continues Paul's second missionary journey south from Philippi to Thessalonica and Berea. In both places we see that Paul starts in the Jewish synagogue (v1,10), preaches the gospel (v2-3,13), sees a response from both Jews and Gentiles (v4,12) and has to eventually flee due to persecution (v10,14). However, the big difference that Luke seems to highlight is the difference in attitude between some of the Jews in Thessalonica who reject the message, and the Jews in Berea who are eager and engage with the Scriptures to see if what Paul is saying is true. This can help us to reflect on our own attitudes to God's Word.*

Read Acts 17v1-15

1. Looking at the words that are used to describe Paul's ministry in v2-4 and v13, what do you think this has to say to us about the nature preaching and the nature of our evangelism?

2. If we agree that good teaching doesn't necessarily lead to a good response, how might this prevent us from becoming discouraged? How might it also challenge both those who speak and those who listen?

3. In the passage, we see that the Jews in Thessalonica were prejudiced against Paul (possibly due to his popularity or because of the number of Gentiles who were being saved) and were also blind to their own inconsistency. How might both of these attitudes prevent someone from hearing and responding to God's Word? Can you think of any personal examples or examples that you have some across?

4. Looking at v11, what conclusions can we draw about the character of the Bereans and their attitude to the Bible?

5. What challenges do you think we face when it comes to checking what we hear at church against the authority of the Bible? What does this look like for you personally?

6. Although we didn't cover this in the sermon, how do you think we should respond if two different groups of Christians examine the Scriptures and come to different conclusions? What do you think this tells us about God and about ourselves?

7. Why might we struggle with the authority of the Bible? How might looking to Jesus help us when we struggle with this?

8. It is clear that once the Bereans were convinced from the Bible that what Paul taught was true it made a difference to their lives – what are some of the ways that you are putting in practice what you are learning from the Bible at the moment?