



One night, the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, "Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent!" Acts 18:9

Bible Study:



Read Acts 16-18 and consider how time and time again Paul entered into towns, spoke at the synagogue and **boldly preached**, showing the words of the prophets and proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah. Each time there were various responses... belief, curiosity, some double checked what scriptures he referenced, and others violently opposed it.

They also visited many young churches, some established in Paul's first missionary journey, so a big part of their work was bringing **encouragement** and teaching them how to live together as a family. Also read and consider Romans 10:13-15 (which quotes Isaiah 52:7), both Jews and Gentiles were believing the message and becoming a blended family united as brothers and sisters.

The gospel in the story:



In Acts 17:22-31, Paul preaches in Athens. He explains the idol to the unknown God. That this God made the world and everything in it. He is the Lord of heaven and earth and doesn't live in temples, he doesn't need an earthly home or help from earthly beings, people, God has no needs. God's purpose is for nations to seek and find him because people are his offspring. He commands people to turn from their sins of not believing in him and to believe that he is the one true God. One day he will judge the world and he can do this because his son, Jesus rose from the dead.

Application:

Head: **What did we learn**

Q: How did Paul, Silas and Timothy know not to go north to preach in Asia as they planned? A: The Holy Spirit prevented it

Q: Why did Paul continue to preach boldly even when he sensed danger? A: The Lord told him not to be afraid, to speak out and not be silent!

Q: They visited many previously established churches, what did they do at those? A: They encouraged the believers.

Heart: **Memory verse**

One night, the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, "**Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent!** For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you for many people in this city belong to me." Acts 18: 9-10

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live?**

When we follow Jesus on His mission, we will encounter hardships, suffering and persecution. But the message of the gospel is worth walking through all of those things because it is the only message that promises real life with God forever, so it is the only message worth telling other people about. AND! Jesus doesn't give us this mission without help. He gives us the **Holy Spirit** to empower and guide us. We are also a part of a family of believers. We too need to spend time **encouraging** others and being encouraged by our church body. We don't have to be afraid to **courageously** tell others about Jesus. With his help we can live a pure life **fully devoted** to God.