

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Reuel & Christine Tica
Missionaries to Philippines
Please Contact Them at
reueltica@yahoo.com



Be A World Changer
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 6/25/2017

Study: 07/02/17

Be a World Changer

God transforms people and communities when believers boldly take the gospel to new places in strategic ways.

Change happens constantly. Some changes are slight; they’re barely noticeable until they add up over time. Other changes are big; they occur suddenly and catch people off-guard. No event in history, however, compares with the transformation of the world brought about by the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The gospel changed everything; its results are eternal. As Paul wrote in Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew and also to the Greek.” The gospel began with a seismic salvation event that continues to send waves of spiritual change across the world.

The risen Lord commissioned us as His followers to take the life-changing gospel message to all the nations of the world (Matthew 28:18-20). He promised that the Holy Spirit would empower us to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). In other words, we would become change agents for God in a fallen, topsy-turvy world. The apostle Paul set the example for serving as a gospel change agent. The second half of the Book of Acts is filled with accounts of how he and other Christ followers took seriously the Great Commission. Led by the Spirit, they developed strategies to take the gospel to places and people groups whom had yet to hear it or witness its life-changing power. One of those places was the ancient city of Thessalonica. Paul and Silas (and probably Timothy) came to this city during the second missionary journey (Acts 15:36–18:22).

Paul and Silas’s time in Thessalonica can teach us a lot about turning the world upside down for God in our day:

1. Have a strategy for sharing the gospel.
2. Start churches.
3. Meet hostility with bold faith.

(source:Smallgroup.com)

KEY VERSE

Acts 17:6b

“These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Acts 17:1-9

Introduction

What are two or three big changes that have come to your neighborhood or city in the past ten years? How do you feel about those changes?

As you look ahead to the next few years, what is a change you would welcome, and why?

Tuesday: Acts 17:1-3; Romans 15:20-21

Paul’s Missions Strategy

Why do you think Paul and Silas—after being mistreated, jailed, and asked to leave Philippi for teaching people about Christ—passed through two other towns in favor of stopping in Thessalonica (17:1)?

What evidence in Acts 17:1-3 shows that Paul had a clear strategy for obeying Christ’s mission of making disciples?

What is your strategy for reaching new people for Christ in your community and beyond?

Wednesday: Acts 17:4; Ephesians 4:11-17

Help Establish New Believers in the Church

If you had been on Paul’s mission team in Thessalonica, how would you describe the people’s response to the gospel?

What do you think the phrase “joined Paul and Silas” means?

Why is it important for new believers to be brought into a church family?

Thursday: Acts 17:5-9; John 15:18-21

Bold Faith in the Face of Hostility to the Gospel

What accusations were made against Christians in Thessalonica? What attitudes and motives lay behind those accusations? What kinds of accusations have been made against believers today?

How can we be known for “turning the world upside down” in a Godly, peaceful—yet proactive—way?

Why can we expect to face resistance when we share the gospel with others?

Friday: Matthew 28:16-20; Matthew 5:14-16

Be a World Changer for Jesus

How can you develop a personal strategy to reach new people with the gospel?

How could your small group help and support you in this mission?

How can we as believers best respond when we are falsely accused or mistreated on account of our faith?

How can we keep from becoming discouraged when we face hostility from those who oppose the message of Jesus?