

Create



✓ Prepare in Advance

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrap-booking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Breath of God

Ask someone to read **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: In our scripture today, Paul is greeting the church at Thessalonica and praising them for their mature faith. He is especially proud of the church for becoming examples to believers in Macedonia and Achaia. Their lives were transformed as they began to follow Christ and it showed in the way they lived. In Acts 17, when Paul first met with the Thessalonians, they were accused of turning the world upside down. What would it be like to be accused of turning the world upside down because of the radical way we lived our faith?

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing, Visual, or Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✓ Create — Writing

Write a newspaper article or a news report about your own arrest after being accused of “turning the world upside down” because of the radical way you lived out your faith.

Write a response to the following question: What is it about the way you live that lets others know you have been transformed by the love and grace and joy of Jesus?

✓ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

A work of art titled, “Faith Turns the World Upside Down.”

✓ Create — Outside the Box

Work with a group of people to evaluate your faith community (either your church or a more specific group within the church). As Paul frequently did, draft a letter of thanks to the church or ministry group for the ways in which it has been helpful in nurturing and growing your faith, then dream for the church. Include in your letter the hopes and dreams for the church or specific ministry group for the future. Conclude your letter with a simple prayer. Consider sharing this letter with a minister or small group leader.

✓ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✓ Close

Offer a prayer thanking God for the community of faith you are a part of.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group’s special gathering place).

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