

# ACTS

LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 17:16-34

March 3, 2024

## BELONG

Get to Know One Another

How would you describe your feelings about your city and the people that live in it?

## BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

**Last week**, we read the first half of **Acts 17**. This week, we will be in the second half of **Acts 17** - and we'll pick up with Paul entering the city of Athens. It is on this trip that we get to see a little bit of Paul's evangelistic versatility - as he starts with the Jews in the synagogue and then moves to the Gentile marketplace. This passage is one of the most popular passages in the book of Acts, and in this passage we are able to see the ministry heart of Paul - which provides us with important lessons for engaging unbelievers today.

Have someone in your group read **Acts 17:16-21**

## BUILD

Engage the Scripture

**Question 1:** As Paul is waiting for his boys in Athens, the Scripture says, *"his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols."* What do you think this means?

- How did he respond?
- Have you experienced a similar feeling?

**Question 2:** Do you think that people still worship idols?

- What are some of the idols worshiped in our culture?

**Question 3:** What made the speakers want to hear more from Paul?

- Was Paul afraid of sounding strange to the people of Athens?
- What about the gospel message is strange to unbelievers?

Have someone in your group read **Acts 17:22-31**

**Question 4:** What about Paul's speech at the Aeropagus most resonates with you?

**Question 5:** How did Paul use the culture around him to make a bridge into the gospel message?

- What are some bridges in your culture to the gospel?

**Question 6:** In Paul's speech at the Aeropagus, he seems to find common ground with the Athenians BUT also corrects their thinking. I'm going to read some of the verses below and I want you to tell me if Paul is affirming the Athenians or refuting them.

	Affirm	Refute
They have a desire to know and worship God <a href="#">[Acts 17:22]</a>		
They are worshipping the God they do not know - and God is worthy of worship <a href="#">[Acts 17:23]</a>		
They are missing a God <a href="#">[Acts 17:23]</a>		
The Creator God does not live in temples <a href="#">[Acts 17:24]</a>		
Many gods were responsible for creation and life <a href="#">[Acts 17:26]</a>		
God isn't knowable <a href="#">[Acts 17:27-28]</a>		

**Question 7:** What about Paul's speech at the Aeropagus most resonates with you?

**Question 8:** Why do you think Paul started with creation before moving to the resurrection and judgment?

**Question 9:** Which part of the gospel do you have the most difficulty talking about or explaining?

- How could you better prepare yourself to proclaim this part of God's message?

Have someone in your group read [Acts 17:32-34](#)

**Question 10:** Do you think Paul's evangelism and preaching in Athens was successful? Why or why not?

## BEGIN

Response and Prayer

**How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Blue Letter Bible:** [Acts 17](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin:** [Acts 17](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

