



## SESSION 7

# Mission & Context

ACTS 17:22-34

Explore the Bible | Winter .18

## CENTRAL TRUTH

Christ calls us to meet people where they are and share the hope of the resurrection with them.

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### Acts 17:22-29

Read Acts 17:22-29, then consider the following questions.

**.03 LOOK BACK AT VERSES 16-21. WHAT DID PAUL NOTICE ABOUT ATHENS? WHAT DID THIS MOTIVATE HIM TO DO?**

**.04 WHAT DID PAUL OBSERVE ABOUT ATHENS? HOW DID HE USE THAT INFORMATION TO CHALLENGE THE ATHENIANS?**

**.05 WHAT DID PAUL TELL THE ATHENIANS ABOUT GOD (VV. 24-29)? HOW DID THIS CONTRADICT THEIR THINKING? HOW WOULD THIS MESSAGE BE RECEIVED TODAY?**

**.06 PAUL QUOTED TWO GREEK POETS IN SUPPORT OF HIS TEACHING ABOUT THE ONE TRUE GOD (V. 28). WHY? WHAT WAS HE SAYING ABOUT GOD BY DOING SO?**

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### Acts 17:30-31

Read verses 30-34, then respond to these questions. Consider journaling your answers and sharing them with your group.

**.07 ACCORDING TO PAUL, HOW HAD GOD PROVED HIMSELF AS CREATOR AND KING OVER ALL THINGS?**

**.08 IN LIGHT OF WHO GOD IS AND WHAT JESUS HAD DONE, WHAT DID PAUL CALL THE ATHENIANS TO DO?**

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### Acts 17:32-34

**.09 HOW WAS PAUL'S MESSAGE RECEIVED? HOW IS THE GOSPEL OFTEN RECEIVED TODAY?**

**.10 WHY IS IT IMPORTANT WE UNDERSTAND WHERE PEOPLE ARE COMING FROM AS WE SEEK TO SHARE CHRIST WITH THEM?**



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## Now What?

Pray for wisdom and courage as you seek to share the hope of the resurrection with people this week.

**.11 WHY MIGHT IT BE HELPFUL TO REMEMBER THAT OUR JOB IS NOT TO FORCE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE BUT MERELY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL?**

**.12 COMPARE AND CONTRAST OUR CULTURE WITH THAT OF ATHENS. HOW MIGHT A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CULTURE AID OUR MISSION EFFORTS?**

**.13 PAUL USED GREEK POETRY AS A POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE IN ATHENS. WHAT ARE SOME MORE SPECIFIC CONNECTIONS YOU CAN MAKE WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY WHO NEED TO HEAR THE GOSPEL?**

**.14 WHAT IS YOUR CHURCH DOING TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO YOUR COMMUNITY? TO THE NATIONS? HOW CAN YOU BE A PART?**

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## Personal Challenge

**Dwell.** The culture of Athens was very worldly, but Paul met the people where they were, and God used him to share the hope of the resurrection with them. Think about where God has you now and brainstorm some ways you could engage people around you right where they are (through sports, interests, activities, etc.).

**Memorize.** Acts 17:30

**Pray.** Come humbly before God and confess that you are nothing without Him and that it is only by the hope of Jesus and the resurrection that you can be in relationship with Him. Ask God to give you courage and boldness to share His love and the hope of the resurrection with the people you come into contact with this week.

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## Keep on Digging

Consider the 7 Arrows for Bible Reading and the Bible Reading Plan for Acts that are included with the Additional Resources.

- As you follow the Bible Reading Plan, you'll be reading Acts 21-22. What do you learn about God from these chapters?
- What can you learn from Paul's example?
- What might God be calling you to do in response to what you've read?