



GOSPEL | COMMUNITY | MISSION

**May 21, 2023**

**Acts 17:16-34**

**“Witnessing to the Athenians”**

## **QUESTIONS**

*(potential discussion/conversation questions to use in your GGs this week)*

1. We have spent the last few weeks studying Acts and seeing the gospel advance in Europe and Asia, especially through the ministry of Paul and his team. As we look at Chapter 17 this week, verse 6 alludes to how this movement is changing the world. What are some examples where these Christ followers "turned the world upside down?"
2. Paul enters Athens having fled persecution in Thessaloniki and Berea, yet it wasn't the persecution that alarmed Paul. What struck Paul upon his entry in Athens?
  - a. Though we may not have idols in the form of statues in our everyday context, there are just as many idols and false gods present in our hearts. What are you tempted to worship daily in your own life?
3. Tony argues that Paul's zeal towards the Athenians reflects that of God's righteous jealousy for his people. How does Paul's reaction to the idolatry in Athens challenge you to react to the idols in your own heart?
  - a. How does it challenge you to react to the false gods that your lost neighbors, family, children, etc. are looking to for answers?
4. Paul's versatility in evangelism led him to proclaim the gospel in the synagogue, marketplace, and the Areopagus. How can you personally model Paul's evangelism in Athens as you pursue the lost in your communities?
  - a. What are some ways we as a growth group can engage people with the gospel in our networks?
5. The Athenians loved learning the newest knowledge available, unaware of the fact that they needed new life! As members of a society that is always seeking the next and best (leader, technology, advancements, etc.) how can we fight to keep the unchanging message of the gospel central and most important?
6. Belief in a God that is personal and interested in all humanity was foreign to the Athenians. What are some ways you personally may struggle to believe this truth?
7. Tony provided many examples of how we can help others see the reasonableness of the faith, exclusivity of the faith, and necessity of repentance and faith.
  - a. How can we as a growth group work together to make our witness more consistent?
  - b. What are ways you personally can grow in your comprehensive understanding of the gospel in light of the whole biblical storyline?
  - c. Why is it important to know the people you are sharing the gospel with?
  - d. How can we as a growth group help one another grow in courage to proclaim the good news this week?