



Introduction

This past Sunday we started a three-week series called *Good News Worth Spreading*. In our pluralistic world the message of Jesus can get muddled with all kinds of other beliefs and traditions. So, we're looking at Acts 17 together to see how the first Christians shared the Good News of Jesus in a cultural landscape that was pretty similar to ours today. In this first lesson, we learn that the Good News of Jesus is so good, we should share it in positive ways.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What initially comes to mind when you hear the phrase, "Share your faith with someone"?

Hear God's Story

2. Acts 17:16-34 takes place in first century Athens, Greece; and specifically, at a place called Mars Hill where people would come to hear new ideas and talk together. Read Acts 17:16-34. What's going on here in your own words?
3. *How* did Paul build his relationship on respect here?
4. King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3:11 said "God planted eternity in the human heart." Now here in Acts 17:23 we see Paul assuming they all had a spiritual longing within them.
 - a. How do you make sense of the spiritual longing that's in all of us?
 - b. Have any of your spiritual longings led you down an unhelpful path?
5. If we modeled Paul's strategy and built relationships based on respect, and remembered that everyone has a spiritual longing within them:
 - a. How would it change your interactions with those who are different from you?
 - b. How would it change you?

Create a New Story

6. Think of one person who believes differently than you and find a way to show them more respect. What would this look like this next week?

Further Studies: Seeing God in Acts 17:22-34

In Acts 17:22-34 we see Paul modeling a fresh way to represent and talk about God to others in a way that's still relevant to our own cultural context today. Now, let's look at this section in Scripture from a different angle. Have this part of Scripture open next to you or pulled up on a screen as you go through the questions below.

Discuss

1. Based on what we read in Paul's speech, what can we learn here about God?
2. When you think of how Paul taught about God being over everything and yet among us, ultimately powerful yet lovingly close, how does that help inform your own view of God?
3. The reverence and awe we get after contemplating the God Paul described here is a place of inward worship. When we try to see God on His own terms and not merely our terms, we're filled with wonder and humility, and our soul is better primed to hear Him and continue in our spiritual growth. How could you better nurture this heart of reverence and awe toward God this next week?
4. We've already studied how we can learn from Paul's strategy to better interact with others. Now, how can what we learn about God in Acts 17:22-34 inform how we interact with others?
5. What's one inner-struggle you want prayer for this week that's hindering you from truly internalizing and then living out what we've discussed?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

6. For those who have young children at home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com