



Introduction

We're concluding 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. 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 last lesson, we learn that we should share the Good News in a way that is clear and understandable, so that people can respond.

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

Share Your Story

1. When wanting to communicate something, is it best to first think about what you want to say, or to consider where the other person is coming from? And, why?

Hear God's Story

2. We're in Acts 17:16-34 for this series and going through Paul's speech to the Greek philosophers on Mars Hill. Let's continue on. Read how Paul concluded his speech in 17:29-31.
 - a. How would you put what Paul said here in your own words?
 - b. How did Paul model simple communication with his particular audience?
3. Now, let's look at how people responded to his speech. Read Acts 17:32-34.
 - a. Do you experience a mixture of responses like this when you tell others about your faith? If so, how do you not take negative responses personally?
4. In the sermon we learned about a helpful continuum line to understand our walks with God. Imagine a line: -5 is far from God, and +5 is being fully transformed by God; "0" in the middle would be the point someone makes a decision to follow Jesus: (Farther from God) -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 [0] 1 2 3 4 5 (Closer to God)
 - a. How does this relate to Paul's interactions at Mars Hill and the people's responses?
 - b. How can keeping this in mind inform our strategy when talking to others?
 - c. What's your journey along this continuum been like over this past year?
 - d. Think of where you're at on this continuum currently. What could you change in your life to help you move closer to God?

Pray

5. Spend a few minutes in prayer as a group praying for what we've discussed, being sure to give God praise in addition to bringing your requests to Him. (How this is specifically done will be the group's decision.)

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?