

²⁴ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ²⁵ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ²⁶ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ²⁷ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. —Acts 2:38–41

⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. ⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. —Acts 10:42–44

THIS IS HOW WE GOSPEL

¹⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ²⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ²¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. —Acts 17:29–31

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. —Acts 13:44–46

THIS IS HOW WE GOSPEL

WEEK 4

**PAUL PREACHES AT THE
AREOPAGUS**

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

To maintain a healthy group, focus on four key components: Word, prayer, relationships, and outreach. This guide will help you study a biblical passage through observation, interpretation, and application. As you explore Acts 17:16-34, keep in mind this week's big idea: we gospel by boldly proclaiming Jesus in a way that connects with people's lives while trusting God with the results.

CONNECT

- Ask this ice-breaker: "Share about a time when you noticed something in your surroundings –like a conversation or a belief– that stirred you to want to share your faith. What happened, and how did you respond?"

INTRODUCTION

In Acts 17:16-34, Paul is in Athens, a city steeped in idolatry, and his spirit is provoked. He engages Jews, philosophers, and marketplace crowds, eventually speaking at the Areopagus—a place of learning, debate, and philosophy. There, he contextualizes the gospel, pointing to their altar “to the unknown god” to proclaim the true God who created all things and raised Jesus from the dead. Some mock, others are curious, and a few believe. This passage gives us insights into how to share the gospel thoughtfully and boldly in a pluralistic world, relying on God for the outcome.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Acts 17:16-18

Paul's "spirit was provoked" by the city's idols (v. 16). What does this reveal about how a love for God and a love for people should motivate us?

Read: Acts 17:22-28

Paul starts with the Athenians' religiosity and quotes their poets to connect with them. How does contextualize the gospel without compromising?

In v. 27, Paul says God is "not far from each one of us." How does this truth encourage us to share the gospel with people who seem far from faith?

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Acts 17:29-34

Paul emphasizes repentance, judgment, and the resurrection (vv. 30-31). Why are these truths central to the gospel, and how do they challenge a culture that avoids absolutes?

The responses vary—mockery, curiosity, and belief (vv. 32-34). What does this teach us about trusting God with the results of our gospel sharing?

APPLICATION

- How can you look for “gospel opportunities” this week in your everyday spaces? Who is your “one?”
- Paul was provoked by idolatry. What in your world stirs your spirit to share Jesus, and how can you respond with both boldness and sensitivity?
- Discuss how you can support each other as a group to “gospel best together.” What practical steps can you take to encourage one another in sharing your faith?

PRAYER

- Pray for each other, for your friends who don't know Jesus yet, and for boldness and wisdom like Paul to gospel well.

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