

OPENING UP: Discuss how Paul begins his message to the philosophers at the Aereopagus in Athens. (Read Acts 17:22-28). Compare this message with the one cut short in Lystra in Acts 14:15-17. Where does he begin?

⚙️ *Someone has said, “God is the gospel.” What does this mean? Is it correct?*


1 **Paul’s sermon in Acts 17 makes some foundational claims about God’s character.** Take some time to discuss both the truth of what He is saying and how it affects your life.

⚙️ *Where does God dwell (Acts 7:48; 1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chronicles 2:6; Isaiah 66:1)? How does this make the one true God different from all the others?*

⚙️ *Does God need anything (Psalm 50:8-13)? What aspect of God’s character is Paul referring to?*

🗨️ *Bring these two truths together. Why are these truths important to understanding God and salvation (Romans 11:33-35)? And, what difference should these two truths make on how you are relating to God or viewing your current circumstances?*

2 **Read Acts 17:29-31.** What seemingly obvious statement does Paul make about idols and God (Psalm 115:4-8; Is 44:9-20)?


 What are the reasons that people everywhere misunderstand this? (see Romans 1:18-23)

♥ How do you see those same things in your life? What are some of the reasons you turn to idols instead of the One True and Living God?

3 **Some say all religions are the same.** What arguments does Paul use to contradict this notion?

4 **When Paul is speaking in Acts 17, he is in Athens the intellectual center of philosophers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle and how they had shaped Western thought with their views on ethics, logic, and the nature of reality.** That era has been called the “Golden Age of Philosophy.” Paul had a different name for it? What did he call the time they were living in? And, what does Paul say about God’s mercy toward those living in that time? (See Acts 17:30-31)

 What has God now commanded for all men? Why now?

 According to Acts 10:42, what has God appointed? Compare this with John 5:20-29.

♥ Take some time to think about how the concept of judgment affects you. What are some of the emotions and responses that you’ve noticed in your heart as you’ve discussed the topic? Does it challenge or motivate you in any way? Does it unsettle you? Are there any ways you are thankful for it or can worship God for it?