

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

1

CONVERSATION

Paul Taught in Athens

ACTS 17:16-34

Paul was concerned about the city of Athens. It was full of false idols that the people had made. It made Paul sad to see people worshiping false gods. Paul went to the synagogue and talked with the Jews about Jesus. Every day in the marketplace he would tell the good news about Jesus and the resurrection to anyone who was there.

Some philosophers (*men who liked to think, reason, and argue*) heard Paul teach. “What is this babbler trying to say?” they asked one another. “He seems to be preaching about foreign gods.”

Other men wanted to hear more, so they invited Paul to speak at the Areopagus, a place where people came to discuss important ideas. The men said, “What you say sounds strange to us. We want to know what it means.”

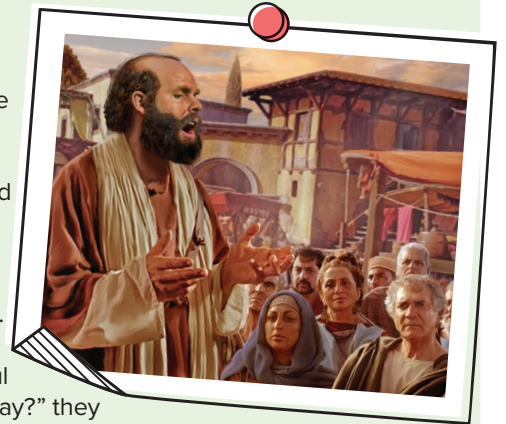
Paul spoke respectfully. “People of Athens,” he began. “I see you are a very religious people. I even saw an altar you have for an unknown god. I can tell you about Him. The God who made the world is Lord of heaven and earth. He does not live in places people make. He does not need anything from us, because He is the One who gives life and everything else. He created the people of every nation and wants them to know Him as God. We live and move and exist through Him. We are His, and He is not made of gold or silver or stone, like man makes.”

Paul continued, “God is alive, and He commands all people everywhere to repent and turn away from disobeying Him.”

Paul also explained that God sent Jesus. When Paul told how Jesus rose from the dead, some people made fun of Paul. Others wanted to hear more. Because Paul taught the good news of Jesus, some men and women in Athens became followers of Jesus.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: John 17:3

LIFE POINT: People can tell about the one true God.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Parents, today your child learned that people can tell about the one true God. When Paul noticed how Athens was filled with idols, he boldly taught in the marketplace and the Areopagus about the one true God and His Son, Jesus.

LIVE IT OUT

Help your child memorize the Weekly Bible Verse, John 17:3. Review the Bible story, explaining that Paul told the people of Athens about the one true God. Encourage your child to share with others what she knows about the one true God.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

All Christians are called to be on mission with God.

DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: John 17:3

Monday: Deuteronomy 6:4

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 1:17

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:35

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 8:6

Friday: James 2:19

Saturday: Isaiah 45:21

TAKE IT FURTHER: Check out the *Paul Taught in Athens* section of the Bible Studies for Life: Kids Family App.

SPRING 2020

Unit 3, Session 3

CONNECTION POINT:

Seize the opportunity to serve.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Too many people build their relationships around what they can get out of the other person. Such people only contact friends if they need something. They might help the person if they can get something in return. Our relationships would thrive much better if, instead of focusing on how the other person can help us, we focused on how we can help and serve the other person.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Acts 17:16-34

Live It Out: Use a cardboard tube to whisper into your child's ear: "God loves you." Let her whisper the message into your ear. Say: "People can tell others about God."

Paul traveled to the city of Athens. Paul went to the synagogue and marketplace to talk to the people about Jesus.

Some men heard Paul teaching about Jesus. They wanted to know more. The men asked Paul to go with them to a special meeting place on a hill. People came from all over Athens to the hill.

Paul stood up in the meeting and said, "I want to tell you what I know about God. God created the world and everything in it. He made all people, and He loves all people. He wants people to love Him." Paul told the people about Jesus, God's Son.

Some people did not believe what Paul was saying, but others wanted to hear more. Some people believed what Paul said. Paul helped people in Athens learn about Jesus.

KIDS

Scripture: Acts 17:16-34

Live It Out: Review the Bible story, explaining that Paul told the people of Athens about the one true God. Encourage your child to share with others what she knows about God.

Paul saw many idols in Athens. He went to the synagogue and the marketplace to teach the people about the one true God. He told them the good news that Jesus died and was alive.

The people did not understand Paul's teaching. They invited him to teach in the Areopagus, a place where people gathered to learn and discuss new ideas.

At the Areopagus Paul said, "People of Athens! I see that you are very religious. You have many gods. Today I want to teach you about the one true God." The people listened to Paul.

Paul explained everything God had done, from creating the world to sending His Son to die for people's sins.

Some people laughed at Paul, others said they wanted to hear more. But some of the people believed in Jesus and followed Him.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Galatians 5:13-15; 6:1-5,10

- What is the connection between freedom in Christ and the command to serve?
- What does carrying one another's burdens look like?
- How can we structure our lives to be ready to serve others?

Live It Out: Scripture teaches that, when we come to faith in Christ, we receive a spiritual gift that is to be used in serving others. And we are to exercise our gifts as an expression of the love we have for our brothers and sisters (1 Cor. 13:1-3; 14:1). Spiritual gifts without love are meaningless. However, when we genuinely love others, we'll be naturally inclined to use those gifts as a blessing to them. If we'll simply pay attention, we'll find that God gives us many opportunities to serve others in meaningful ways.

Ensure that your student understands that we are not saved through good works, but we are to use the gifts given to us to serve others. Consider ways you and your family can use your gifts to serve others in your church and community.