



Acts: The Birth of the Church in the World - Week 7: How to Engage Our Culture

Acts 17: 16-34

Discussion Questions for August 23rd, 2026

1. (IceBreaker) The city of Athens and the Greek gods are fertile topics for entertainment in our culture. What book, TV show, or movie about Greek gods or culture is your favorite? (The recent Odyssey movie? Percy Jackson books? Hercules the Disney movie?)
2. **Main Idea: How To Engage Our Culture.** When you read about Paul's time in Athens, what sticks out to you the most? In verses 17 and 18, identify the three different groups that he interacts with. How might he have spoken differently with each group?
3. Epicureans believed the good life is found in pleasure and freedom from suffering and fear, rejecting bodily resurrection. Stoics sought the good life by living rationally and virtuously, accepting what you cannot control, but thought of God as a divine force rather than personal. How do these views differ from a biblical worldview? What common ground might you find to build upon?
4. **Point #1: Pauls Mission.** Paul was waiting in Athens for his friends and fellow workers to catch up to him. What does it tell you about Paul that he didn't just idle away his time? Waiting time doesn't have to be wasted time. Give an example from modern life where waiting could become ministry time.
5. **Point #2: Paul's Message.** Paul used a point of common ground (very religious, interested in an unknown god) to begin sharing about the Christian message. What could you use as common ground with unsaved people in these groups? 1. Climate change activist 2. Muslim 3. Parent of children 4. Renowned scientist 5. Store clerk 6. Movie buff
6. Check the footnotes for verse 28 in your Bible. Where did those quotes come from? Do you think Paul just researched those poets that morning, or was he conversant in Greek literature and poetry? What about his past

informs your answer? Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and talk about how this passage connects with Paul in Athens.

7. In today's world, which groups of people would you most naturally relate to? Maybe you're not an expert on poetry, but where are you naturally staying current with culture? Name a group, and then think of one way you might create a bridge to a gospel conversation. What is your "altar of the unknown god"?
8. Pray that we are inspired by Paul's example of ministering to others on any occasion. Spirit, give us sensitive hearts to have compassion on people and a righteous anger toward idols that ensnare them.