

Discussion Questions

1. How do we keep from waging a culture war on the lost people we are called to lead to Christ? How do we look past their sinful behavior to see the depraved person in need of a spiritual doctor?
2. What is the difference between knowledge & wisdom? What is the danger of having so much knowledge without the wisdom & experience to understand how to apply that knowledge in constructive ways?
3. Can you think of ways Christians can step into the mentoring role Gen Z is so desperate for? Is this an appropriate role for church to play?
4. For generations, churches have fought younger generations over music, secondary theologies, traditions, apparel, etc. Change is necessary for growth, and things that don't change die. What can the church do to make "change" a core value and avoid clinging to less unnecessary traditions?

If you are doing the 5-week study, jump to video 10. You can do this section later.

Acts 17:22-28 (NLT)

So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

When Paul told the religious leaders of Athens about God, he didn't condemn them for worshiping multiple gods. He didn't even talk about Israel, but he did describe God as the one who holds all things in His hands. He told them that God has a great plan for the world. He wants everyone to seek Him and find Him. Then, rather than quote Scripture, Paul quoted their poets, creating common ground and relevancy.

Going Deeper

5. Is the fact that God determined our "boundaries" and decided when we "rise and fall" a reason to optimistic or fearful about the future?
6. When Paul told the religious leaders of Athens about God, why did he choose to talk about God's sovereignty but not about sin? Why did he talk about their poets but not about the Bible?
7. What does finding common ground and being relevant look like in your culture? Are there issues that we can look past and cultural opportunities we can use to reach people who are far from God?