

FOR

DIGGING DEEPER

Week 2 | Know What You're FOR: Finding Common Ground



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RECAP

This week we continue our series, "Know What You're FOR." This discussion reaffirms why we exist as a church, and cuts to the very core of our purpose and mission as a people of God.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: What sport would you compete in if you were in the Olympics?

DISCUSS

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 17:22-27 | So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us."

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 17:23b | What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

1. What success and struggles have you had in talking to others about your faith?
2. Paul found in Athens an altar to an Unknown God. Pastor Garrett suggests there are many such "unknown gods" in our society - things people prioritize, give authority to, even worship. What are some of these unknown gods, and are there areas of common ground that can open up spiritual dialogue?
3. "Common grace" is a theological concept that affirms there are ways in which God blesses all humankind, even if they are outside the Covenant or have said "no" to Him. What do you see as some of these common grace areas, and how can we use them as entry points to draw people closer to Jesus?
4. The first thing Paul does in Athens is to observe and listen. Who are the people in your life, especially those who reject faith, whose story and experiences you feel led to listen to more?

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

How can you be FOR someone this week? Have you taken on the challenge to own a local business or restaurant as a way to be FOR our community? Keep making an effort to get to know the staff and customers. Find out what you have in common and build on that. This can lead to conversations with people about how you are FOR them because God is FOR them! Give it a try and let us know how it's going. We can't wait to see how God will work through you to reach others!

