

Always on Mission

Acts 17.16-34

This is the final week of Life Groups for AD2025 (believe it or not). But that doesn't mean you shouldn't meet during the holidays; in fact, I encourage you to do so. Whether or not you do, here's some fodder to get into the good stuff of Paul's momentous visit to Athens.

Pastor Eric

Setting the Scene – Athens & Opportunity

What stands out to you about the cultural and philosophical significance of ancient Athens?

Paul didn't plan to be in Athens—it was essentially an emergency landing. Have you ever had an “unplanned stop” in life that God used for something meaningful? What does Paul's response to unexpected circumstances teach us about readiness and spiritual alertness?

Paul in the Agora – Engaging Different Audiences

How does Paul's ability to move from the synagogue to debating with philosophers challenge our own approach to interacting with people with different cultural or spiritual mindsets than our own?

How would you describe the difference between sharing the gospel with people familiar with Scripture versus sharing with people who know nothing about it?

Paul's Message – Jesus and the Resurrection

In Acts 17, Paul focuses on Jesus and the resurrection—not politics, not social issues. What might this teach us about the center of Christian witness? What are some “distractions” Christians today might focus on instead of making Jesus *himself* the main point?

Paul at the Areopagus – Becoming All Things to All People

In what ways might we practice the principle of *becoming all things to all people* (1 Cor 9) without compromising our identity in Christ?

How well do you feel you understand the “mindset” of the non-Christian people around you? What would help you understand it better?

Application – Making the Case for Jesus

Imagine someone asked you, “What is the gospel?” How would you respond in 1–2 sentences?

On a scale of 1–10, how prepared are you to *give a reason for the hope that is in you* (1 Pet 3:15)? What would help you grow in readiness? What is one specific step you can take this week to be more prepared, either by deepening your grasp of the gospel or understanding your cultural context?