

JESUS EVERYDAY

GOSPEL INTEGRATION

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 2: EDUCATION

Read the Text

Acts 17:16-32

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Main Point

As we continue in our *Jesus Everyday* series, we get to see what the Bible has to say about evangelism and education. Something we all have in common is that we are life-long learners and will at

some point have interaction with the education system whether that's public school, homeschool, or private school. Education is something that touches all of our lives, so it's worthwhile to see how we can approach it with a biblical and godly perspective.

There are plenty of passages in Scripture that talk about learning and teaching and the impact that has on our theology and transformation. There is an educational connection between our heads, hearts, and hands. What we learn, we believe, and then we do. But whatever educational system we have in place is broken because of sin, so ***it's imperative that our educational foundation lies in the fear of the Lord and a desire to be formed by Him so we can become more like Him and tell others about Him.***

As Paul preaches this sermon, he is surrounded by beauty, architecture, and lavish statues that were built to worship false gods and idols. Instead of condemning and berating the audience about these idols, Paul lovingly re-directs the object of worship to the one true God. ***In a culture where we are surrounded by things that promise beauty, wealth, and comfort, Paul's example shows us that we can have something beautiful, but if it doesn't lead you to something good, it isn't telling you the truth – it's telling you a lie.*** Paul takes the brokenness and sin of the world and evangelizes the audience by educating them on who the true Creator is. To educate is to evangelize and to evangelize is to educate.

So what are we to do with the education options that lay before us? There is no one-size-fits-all solution because there are many factors at play in leading to that decision. When we decide on the educational path for our kids and ourselves, what matters most is our motivations. Sinful motivations can include greed, pride, or self-righteousness. ***When we make education decisions with a gospel perspective, however, our motivations shift from selfish gain to a desire to transform hearts to follow Jesus.***

Reflect Together

1. What does education have to do with evangelism? Is this a connection you've thought about before?
2. What are some of your motivations for pursuing education whether that's for yourself or a child? Where have you experienced sinful motivation like greed, self-righteousness, and selfishness and where have you experienced redemption?
3. How did your education shape you and transform you? How did it impact your faith?

Mission Together

As we approach the summer, we are encouraging all MCs to make it the summer of hospitality. This means making your group time more outward facing to non-believers.

This whole sermon series is about evangelism. Prayerfully consider who is **one person** in your life that you could pursue in relationship? Go through this exercise together:

1. Pray about who God wants you to pursue and how you can obey that call.
2. Work together as a group to come up with social ways to get yourselves and not-yet-believers together (game night, barbecue, play date at a park, party, etc.)
3. Make a plan! When and where will you host this, and what will the various responsibilities of the group members be?