

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. When was the last time you shared with someone else anything related to what God has done in your life? What was your strategy? How did the conversation begin?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Read Acts 17:16-21.
 - a. What was Paul doing in Athens?
 - b. According to verse 16, what was troubling Paul?
 - c. Read this verse in the NASB version as well. What does this verse mean to you?
 - d. How is this different from a feeling when we have been wronged?
 - e. Have you ever experienced this?
3. Bible Scholar, Ray Stedman, said, "Each idol revealed that these men and women of Athens had a great capacity for God. They knew there was something beyond man, and they were seeking for it. But each idol also revealed a twisting, a distorting, of that capacity, a sabotaging of it." Would you agree? Why or why not?
4. Paul did something that perhaps was never done in verse 17. What did he do? Have you ever done this?
5. In verse 18, Paul debated with two types of philosophers. Who were they? What did they believe? Do a little research! Can you identify with their thinking?
6. If God told you to debate Christianity with a Philosophy professor at Harvard or Yale, would you do it? How does a person's IQ affects your confidence or willingness to share your faith? Are there any fears you have to work through? Why?
7. According to verses 17-21, what did the people of Athens enjoy talking about? Do you know anyone who enjoys talking like this?
8. According to Acts 17:22-25, what bible verse did Paul use to start sharing his faith? (Think about it). What was his opening? What does this say about how we should start a conversation with someone about our faith?

9. If you were going to start a conversation with someone about your faith, and you chose to start with creation, what would you say about creation that would help someone recognize an intelligent supreme being? According to verse 26, what was Paul's next point?

10. Read verses Acts 17:27-34.
 - a. What is Paul saying?

 - b. How did the people respond?

 - c. What does this say to us about how people may respond to the gospel?

Application

Below are some

of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Sometimes we think we're wasting time when we're waiting. But God will use you while you're waiting! If your walking with God, God will use you even while you wait.

- **This is something that happens to Christians.** You can be troubled about things that didn't bother you when you weren't a Christian. But now since you've been a Christian, there are new convictions. You notice things that you didn't notice before. You are troubled. You may not know why. But your spirit is agitated.

- **We're all related!!!** We're all the same.