

DISCUSSION STARTER

What are the greatest obstacles to evangelism in today's world? In other words, what makes it difficult to share the gospel in 2021? How can we overcome these obstacles?

BIBLE STUDY

1. **READ ACTS 17:16-21.** What does it mean that Paul's spirit was 'provoked' or 'upset' by the idolatry of the people of Athens?
2. Is the worship of idols still a problem in today's world? What form does idolatry take today?
3. Where did Paul reason with people in Athens (vs 17)? What kind of people did he talk to?
4. What name did the philosophers give Paul (vs 18)? What did they think about his ministry?
5. **READ ACTS 17:22-28.** What does Paul mean by calling the Athenians 'very religious' (vs 22)?
6. Why did Paul use the statue of the 'unknown god' as the starting point for his message (vs 23)? What did he usually use as his starting point?
7. What do vs 24-27 tell us about God's nature, His mission and His relationship to mankind?
8. Why does Paul quote Greek poetry to make his points (vs 28), and not the Old Testament Scripture as he usually did? What principles can we learn for evangelism from this approach?
9. **READ ACTS 17:29-34.** What ignorant act will God no longer overlook according to vs 29-30? Why was it 'overlooked' before, and what turning point has changed God's expectations?
10. What does God now expect from mankind (vs 30)? Why is this now necessary (vs 31)?
11. What are the three different reactions to the preaching of the gospel in Athens (vs 32-34)?
12. How can you be more proactive about sharing the gospel in your 'world' right now?

PRAYER

That God would break our hearts for the idolatry of our day and empower us for the work of evangelism into our broken culture.