

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Paul in Athens

WHAT YOU NEED

- Mars' Hill Activity Sheet
- Blank piece of paper
- Scissors
- Glue

1

LET'S READ THE BIBLE

2

Have someone in your family read the following passage:

- Acts 17:16-34

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Paul and Silas had set off from Antioch on Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey. They had travelled across Asia Minor re-visiting the churches that Paul and Barnabas had established during their 1st

Missionary Journey. In Lystra, a young man named Timothy joined them on the journey.

The missionary team shared the Good News about Jesus in Thessalonica and Berea. But the Jews made trouble for Paul. So while Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea for a while, Paul continued on his journey by stopping in the wealthy and cultured city of Athens.

Athens was a city with many temples, altars, idols and statues built to many different gods. Paul was greatly distressed by all of this. In case they accidentally left any gods out, there was even idols that said "To an unknown God".

Paul first went to the synagogue to preach the Good News about Jesus. The philosophers of the city asked Paul to come and meet with them on a rock hill called Areopagus (Mars' Hill).

Paul said that idols were man's attempt to make gods. Paul preached that men cannot make God. God has made man and all that is in the world. There is only one God and it is wrong to put anything above Him. Some of the people there made fun of Paul, but others did believe in Jesus.

3

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- What city in Greece had many idols (even one to an "Unknown God")?
- What did Paul think when he saw all of these idols, temples and altars?
- What is an idol? (*Anything that is worshipped above God - often a statue or carving*)
- Why is it wrong to worship an idol?

4

NOW WHAT?

- What things can people love more than God?
- Is there anything in your life or your family's lives that have become more important than God?
- How will we change this?

5

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

- Print out or write out the Mars' Hill Activity Sheet
- Cut out all of the blocks
- Stick the two bigger blocks onto the sides of the paper (see picture)
- Now arrange the smaller blocks into the correct order according to the story we read today
- When you have the correct order, stick the smaller blocks down in between the two larger blocks (see picture)

6

