

Oct 18, 26 Acts 17:16-34 Small Group Questions
"A Faith Too Big to Keep Private"

1. Where do you notice the strongest pressure to keep faith private or separate from ordinary life - work, money, politics, relationships, or something else?

Read Acts 17:16-34 together.

2. What does Paul notice in Athens, and what does he do in response? What stands out about where he chooses to engage people?

3. The sermon suggests that we need to "see as Paul sees." What might Paul have recognized beneath the idols of Athens? What are some modern-day things we can turn into ultimate sources of meaning, security, or identity?

4. Verse 16 says Paul was deeply distressed or provoked. How is that different from contempt, superiority, or withdrawal? What might it look like to hold grief over idolatry together with love for people?

5. How does Paul speak to the Athenians about God? Where does he find points of contact, and where does he challenge their assumptions?

6. Think of someone whose beliefs about Christianity differ from yours. What questions could help you understand their experience before you offer a response?

7. What does Paul announce about repentance, judgment, and Jesus' resurrection? How does this expand the gospel beyond private comfort or the hope of life after death?

8. If the risen Jesus claims every part of life, what is one particular area in which you sense an invitation to think, choose, or act differently this week? How could this group pray for and encourage you?

Close by praying for one another: that God would give us eyes to see, hearts that love, and courage to live as signs of his coming kingdom.