

***Making a Case for Faith***  
***Date: 5/15/16***

**Read Together**

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.**

Scripture passage: Acts 17:22-34

In many ways, we are living in days and times where we are traveling through alien, and even hostile, territory as we seek to live out our faith and fulfill the calling of Christ in our lives. Who we are, what we value and believe, the language we speak, and practices we readily engage in are found to be suspect and even offensive to both the government and the communities of people and people groups that surround us. This is why Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

Paul was quite a traveler. Journeying from place to place, his God-given purpose was to "go there" with the Gospel. In Acts 17, Paul landed in Athens and from this vantage point with courageous resolve, he began to proclaim Christ in the most fertile ground of ancient dialogue and debate—the Aeropagus or Mars Hill. It was there that Paul made his case for faith, helping to make the "unknown" a known reality for those who would believe.

**Pray Together**

**Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

**Discuss Together**

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- What experiences have you encountered that have caused you to live out the truth of your heavenly citizenship found in Philippians 3:20?

**Read Acts 17:16-21**

- Describe the culture of Athens at the time of Paul's journey there. How was it described and what were the reactions of the people when Paul preached the Gospel?
- How is this similar to our culture and the preaching of the Word of God to many today?
- What reactions have you encountered when talking about God and the Lord Jesus Christ to others?
- Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, Luke 24:45, 2 Timothy 4:1-5. What do these verses remind us of about hearing, understanding, and believing the Scriptures?



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- How should this change the way we pray for others who do not know the Lord?

#### **Read Acts 17:22-31**

- Paul begins to proclaim the truth about the “unknown god” in these verses. How does he describe God? Make a list. (Ex. He made the world and everything in it. (v. 24))
- Look at your list. What characteristics or attributes of God do you see from these statements? (Ex. God is our Creator, judge, sovereign, etc.)
- How does looking at God’s character give you greater insight into His presence and power in your life? How does it change the way you trust God? How does it change the way you pray?
- Read Romans 1:18-23. What does this passage tell us about the ability to know God and understand who He is?
- Several times Paul mentions idolatry in this passage. What does he say regarding ignorance and idolatry in verses 28-31?
- If Paul were with us in our culture today, what would he say regarding idolatry?
- Talk about God as judge. What does the Bible say about the judgment of God? Why is this such a controversial subject in our day?
- Paul pointedly proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people at Areopagus and tells them to “repent.” When was the last time you shared the Gospel? What were the results?

#### **Read Acts 17:32-33.**

- How did the listeners respond to Paul’s preaching?
- What was Paul’s response?
- Paul trusted that his job was to share the message of the Gospel and leave the responses to the work of the Holy Spirit. How do you respond after sharing your faith with another? What should your response be?
- Discuss verses that can help you as you share your faith. Take time and pray for the members of your Life Group in this area.

### **Do Life Together**

**These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately, a disciple-maker.**

Who will you share your case for faith with this week?



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