



Thinking & talking through the biblical text during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Here are some key questions to get you started.

Reflection Questions:

- What questions and comments did you have about the sermon and supporting texts?

Read **Acts 17:16-34**

- How did Paul arrive in Athens, and what do the circumstances of his arrive and ministry there teach us about the Holy Spirit's role in missions (cf. **Acts 16:6-17:15**; **Romans 1:13, 15:22-23**)?
- What were the main points of Paul's message to the Mars Hill?
- How does the content of what Paul shares on Mars Hill compare to what he shared earlier in the book of Acts (cf. **13:16-41**; **14:15-17**)?
- Was Paul contextualizing the gospel to different audiences? If so what practical value does this have with how we share the gospel today?
- What was left out of Paul's presentation of the good news of Jesus on Mars Hill that was so fundamental to Peter's proclamation of the good news earlier in the book of Acts?
- Paul quoted 2 different Greek poet/philosophers treating their statements as holding authority but didn't quote any scripture, why? What does Paul's approach here teach us about the nature of apologetics with unbelievers?
- What did Paul mean by *The times of ignorance God overlooked* **v30**?
- Did Paul succeed or fail in his mission at Athens? Why or why not?

Living it Out

- What are the issues, speakers, contexts in which we can learn to apply what Paul does in Athens?
- What basic presuppositions do we need to have to defend our faith?
- What does it look like to do apologetics by looking for points of contact and moving from them?
- What are the basic questions to ask in order to better understand and clarify the worldviews at work in the argument?
- Is it possible to have a *private* faith in Jesus while living in the public arena?
- What does it mean to reason for Christ in a post-Christian culture?
- How do we speak and live the gospel of Jesus in a way that is life affirming and sets people free from bondage in our context?