



11.20.11/Acts 17:16-34

### Materials

none

### Opening Activity

Ask the children if they can think of someone in their life that may not know who Jesus is. Or maybe they know who Jesus is but they are not friends with Jesus. Tell them that today they will learn about how Paul told people about Jesus.

### Summarize Acts 17:16-34

Once Jesus died on the cross for our sins and then was resurrected (came back to life) the believers began to tell everyone about Jesus and what he did. One man named Paul was traveling all over the world telling people about Jesus. He was in a place called Athens when he noticed that the people who lived there believed in a lot of gods. There was even one statue of a god that didn't even have a name! So every day he went to the marketplace to tell people about Jesus. He wanted them to understand that all the different gods they believed in were actually not gods at all, because there is only one true God; the God who sent His son to pay for their sins. He explained to them that this God cannot be made by a person and that He couldn't be housed in a building. He explained that God lives in our hearts and minds when we believe in Jesus!

### Discussion

#### Question 1

Why do you think Paul wanted to tell the people in Athens about Jesus?

*Jesus had done such wonderful things for Paul that he wanted to share his joy with everyone who would listen. Jesus died on the cross for Paul and loved him even though he was sinning.*

#### Question 2

Why do you think Paul told them that God does not live in things made by a person?

*The people in Athens thought that they could make things that would help them solve problems in their lives. Paul knew that only God could solve their problems. Paul knew that God's own Holy Spirit is sent to live in the hearts of those who believe in Jesus. He wanted them to understand that trying to make things that could solve their problems wouldn't actually help them at all! Only a friendship with God can do that!*

#### Question 3

Should you tell people about being friends with God?

*Of course you can! If you believe that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9), then you are saved, and Jesus' Holy Spirit lives in your heart too. When the Holy Spirit lives in your heart, He changes you to become more and more like Him. And when God changes us, we want to tell people about Him just like Paul did!*

### Passage Activity

Have the children think of someone in their life that they can talk to about Jesus. It may be someone that does not know Jesus at all. Have them think of ways they can tell that person about Jesus. They can tell the group what they may do to tell others about Jesus. The adult in the group can guide this discussion.

### Passage Discussion and Wrap Up

Explain to the children that God wants to everybody's friend. When they see people they know they can tell them about Jesus like Paul did. All their friend has to do is believe that Jesus is Lord and God brought Him back to life after He died on the cross for their sins! Pray with the children and tell them to ask their parents if they have any questions about believing in Jesus.