

## My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week - 43 - Acts 17:16-34

**Summary of this week's teaching:** This week's passage details Paul's address to the Greek philosophers in Athens, Greece. Upon hearing the Gospel, the philosophers brought Paul to the Areopagus where he was asked to explain his message. Taking this wonderful opportunity, Paul confronted their idolatry and false beliefs as he shared with them the hope of the Gospel.

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. When was the last time you got the opportunity to share the good news with someone?

**Seed:** The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 17:16-34.

1. Verse 16 says that Paul's spirit was provoked within him. What does this mean? Has your spirit ever been provoked within you? How can you discern if it's from the Lord?
2. Paul used very controversial things to share the Gospel- an idol, false worship, and Greek quotations that refer to Zeus in their original context. Why would he do such a thing? What lessons can we learn from this? What incorrect conclusions can we potentially make?

**Roots:** Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. Paul's audience were polytheistic Greeks who had no concept of a personal, good, and loving God. How did Paul describe God to them? What can this teach us about how we can/ought to connect with the Lord?

**Trunk:** Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. What lessons of faith do you see in this week's passage?
2. What lessons of faith is God teaching you during this season of life?

**Crown:** Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. In Paul's speech at the Areopagus, he both commended and confronted Greeks of Athens. He found ways to commend them for their attempts at worship, but he also confronted their false ideas and ineffective religion. Pick a cultural hot topic and see what about it you can commend, and what needs to be confronted with the Gospel.

