



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **Cross-cultural Evangelism**
TEXT: **Acts 17:16-34**

Instructions: *Instructions: - Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Today it is possible to be a missionary without learning another language, raising support or even leaving home. We are surrounded by international students, immigrants, refugees and illegal aliens. But how do we share the gospel with someone whose beliefs and customs are so different from our own? In Acts 17 we see what happens when Paul, a Jewish Christian from Palestine, communicates the gospel in pagan Athens, the intellectual capital of the Roman Empire.

1. Think of someone you know who comes from a very different cultural or ethnic background. In what ways are you similar?
2. Read Acts 17:16-34. Much like a tourist, Paul looks over Athens while he waits for Silas and Timothy (v 16). Why do you think he reacts so strongly to the city's idolatry?
3. As a result of his distress, Paul begins evangelizing in the synagogue and the marketplace (w. 17-18). Why do you think he felt these two places were strategic?
4. What are some of the common gathering places for non-Christians in your area, especially those from different cultural or ethnic backgrounds?
Which of these places would provide a good opportunity for sharing and discussing the gospel?
5. Why do you think Paul's message about Jesus and the resurrection seemed so strange to the Athenians (w. 18-21)?
6. The Court of the Areopagus required teachers like Paul to give account of their teaching (w. 19-21). As he begins his speech, what common ground does Paul find with the Athenians (v. 22-23)? Why is it important to find such common ground when communicating the gospel cross-culturally?
7. What might have happened if Paul had begun by condemning the Athenians idolatry?
How can we disapprove of things our friends believe or do with being judgmental?
8. According to Paul, how is the "unknown God" different from; the other Greek gods (w. 24-29)?
9. Paul's statements to the Athenians were obviously based on Scripture. Yet why does he quote Greek poetry to them rather than Scripture! (v. 28)? What popular literature or current movies can you use constructively in evangelism?
10. Paul says that in the past God had patiently overlooked the ignorance of pagan people (w. 30-31). Why does God now require them to repent of their ignorance and idolatry?

11. How are the responses to Paul's message typical of those we can expect when we share the gospel (w. 32-34)?
12. As you look back over this passage, what principles have you learned about communicating the gospel cross-culturally?