



The Chapel
April 6, 2025
Dave Gustavsen

Week 12: Challenge Idols
Scripture: Acts 17:16-34

1. OPEN IN PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

- Have a group member pray, invite the Holy Spirit to lead, and fill your time together.

2. GETTING STARTED: (10 MINUTES)

- Question: Share about a time when you were involved in a conversation where your viewpoint was completely different from everyone else's in the room.

3. READ ACTS 17:16-34 TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)

- Ask one or two group members to read the passage aloud.

4. DISCUSS (30 MINUTES)

Understanding the Passage:

- What did the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers believe that was so different from Christian beliefs? Verse 18 says that some of them had an issue comprehending his message. Why?
- How did Paul model each of the three steps of being a witness—engaging people, challenging idols, and talking about Jesus—in his interaction with the people of Athens? Which of these steps do you find most challenging, and why?
- Acts 17:26 says that God “marked out their (mankind’s) appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands...so that they would seek Him”. How does this verse show God’s intentional design in drawing people to Himself? What does that mean for where you live and the people around you?
- Out of everything that the Apostle Paul could have shared with the people of Athens, what was the reasoning or significance of the topics that he covered?

Applying the Message:

- Paul was greatly distressed by the idols he saw in Athens. When you look at the culture around you – what people worship, chase after, or put their hope in – how does it affect you? How do you think God wants you to respond?
- Why is it so uncomfortable to voice differing viewpoints from those around you? What helps you stay bold and grounded when you're tempted to stay silent about your faith or convictions? How can you grow in courage to speak truth with both grace and love in uncomfortable moments?

- The synagogue and the marketplace were locations that Paul could reason and engage with people. Where are places that we can engage with people? How can we effectively do this without putting them in a defensive posture?

5. LIVE IT OUT: (10 MINUTES)

- Pastor Dave encouraged us not to underestimate the importance of “Kairos moments” (i.e., significant moments). He asked us this week to take a risk by engaging people in conversation, asking about their life, praying for them, and inviting them to church.
- For a more specific conversation, imagine you are speaking to someone who idolizes someone or something other than God. How would you explain that God is the only one worthy of worship?

6. CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

- Spend time praying that you and your group will have the eyes to see and the opportunity to share that worshipping the One true God not only makes sense, but makes a difference in the way we live.