



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of May 15, 2022: Acts 17:16-31

Memory Verse

Acts 17:24 *"For the God who made the world and all that is in it, the Sovereign of heaven and earth, doesn't live in sanctuaries made by human hands..."*

-The Inclusive Bible, the First Egalitarian Translation

A Time to Pray

Prayer for the Day: Good Morning, God! It's a new day. Help me to see you, feel you, and know you today. And help me to bring your love to others.

A Bedtime Blessing:

It's sleepy time now
So rest, my sweets
May God's love flow down
In your sleep so deep

Meal Time Prayer:

Gathered around this table, we thank you, God, for food, family, and friends. For those who don't feel loved, help us to love. For those who are hungry, help us to feed. For those who are lonely, help us to be a friend. Amen.

The Story: Paul (Saul) in Athens

A little background: Athens is a city in Greece, and the Greek people had built their lives around knowledge. They took pride in themselves as great thinkers, open to any and all ideas. Athens was the capital with great monuments, libraries, and universities. Paul was a missionary and in Acts 17 he is traveling to the city of Athens to teach the people there about God and God's son, Jesus. The people in Athens believed that God was real, but they also believed that all of the other gods of false religions were real as well. Paul was well educated and could speak very well. While some Athenians said they did not know God, Paul said he did. Paul told the people about Jesus. Acts 17:16-31 helps us to learn about who God is.



Read Acts 17:16-21. *When Paul entered Athens he talked to everyone that would listen to him and told them all about Christ. He told people who were like him and he told people who were very different from him. The people of Athens could have had Paul kicked out of the city or sent to jail for proclaiming that*

Craft Corner:

Drawing God (any age)

Supplies needed: paper and crayons/colored pencils

Ask the kids to draw a picture of something that makes them think of God. It could be a rainbow, a lamb, a sun. Talk about how they see God in what they drew.

Only One (any age)

Supplies needed: several pennies, one small sticker
Place a small sticker on one of the pennies and mix well.

Guide your child to look for the penny that has the sticker. Tell them that only one has a sticker. Explain that many people may choose to worship other things, but there is only one true God who deserves our worship. Congratulate your child when they find the penny with the sticker. Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship. There may be lots of things that we could worship, but there is only one true God, and God deserves our worship. In our story today, Paul helps people understand that God is the only one.

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Jesus was God's son, but he trusted God and boldly told them about God anyway. The people in Athens were typically educated and enjoyed debating the latest religions, even though they didn't understand that what Paul was saying was true. Finally, Paul is invited to speak to a group of people at a place called the Areopagus.

*Read Acts 17:22-23. While wandering through the city Paul saw an altar that said: To an Unknown God. He took this opportunity to tell the people about the one and only true God. Paul told the people that he knew who God was and that God was not unknown. Read Acts 17:24-25. In this passage, Paul teaches that God is the **Creator**. He created the world. He created us. He doesn't rely on humans to serve him because He created them in the first place.*

*Read verses 26-27. From this passage we learn that God is the **Ruler** of the world. He created all of the people in the world and determined their lives. He rules over everything that happens in the world and has placed us in a place where we can best serve him.*

*Read verse 28. In this verse we see that we are dependent upon God. God is the **Sustainer**. He sustains our life and allows us to continue to live on this Earth. He sustains us through good times and bad times. We need God in our lives. Without God, we could do nothing.*

*Read verse 29. In this verses we are called God's offspring. That means that we are His children. We have been adopted into his family. God is a **Parent** to His children. He is not an image or an idol that we cannot reach, but our Father. He loves us because we are one of his own.*

*Read verses 30-31. In this passage Paul reminds us that God is **Judge**. God wants us to be good but we all make mistakes and sin. If we know Jesus, then we are a child of God. We are saved through knowing Jesus.*