

The 5 Marks of Missional Living - Evangelism

Acts 17:1-34

Introduction:

This is merely a discussion guide for you and your Life Group. There is not any expectation for you to be a Bible scholar or the wisest person in the room. The expectation is that you would pray to God, asking Him to illumine your heart and mind as you walk through these verses. Life Groups are designed to cultivate an environment where reading Scripture, engaging in prayer, and being in biblical fellowship will flourish. Facilitating such an environment is all that we ask, we don't seek perfection. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you, and if you have any concerns after your group conversation, please reach out. Today's passage is Acts 17:1-34. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for this passage, you can find the content on pages 1710-1714. - JF

Questions:

When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone? What was their response? What method (or words) did you use to share the gospel? What could have gone better? What encouraged you? Now consider a person who shared the gospel with you before becoming a Christian. How did they share the gospel with you? What drew you into the claims and comfort of the gospel? What did you push away from?

Considering Acts 17, what is the context of this chapter (what happened before the events of Acts 17, what is the book of Acts, who are the major personalities mentioned in Acts)? When we get to the beginning of Acts 17, we see that Paul and Silas arrive in Thessalonica. Have group members turn to the back of their Bibles (if they have a physical copy) and look at a map of Paul's journeys (if someone doesn't have a physical Bible, have them go to BlueLetterBible.org to look at the map selection there.). Where is Thessalonica on the map? Why is location, culture, and/or context important for understanding the stories in Scripture? What were Paul and Silas doing while in Thessalonica? What was meant by the sentence "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also (*verse 6*)?" In what ways did the early Church turn the world upside down? In what ways is the Church still doing that? How are you partnering with God to turn the world upside down in your sphere of influence?

Paul and Silas continued their journey to Berea in verses 10-15. Again, locate Berea on the map. How does the text describe the people of Berea? Why is that description important for the events that take place in Berea? What do these verses tell us about how the people reacted to Paul and Silas' message? When you have shared the gospel, do you have people to investigate your claims? If so, how have they investigated your message? If not, why do you think that is? How do you react when you hear a message of great claims and unbelievable power? What can you learn from the behavior of the Bereans?

Paul was sent further on his journey into the city of Athens. In verses 16-21, we see Paul's actions and attitude while being in a place of idolatry and religious engagement. What does verse 16 say about Paul's spirit while he was in Athens? What does that mean exactly? How do you feel (or how does your spirit react) when you are in a place of idols? What were some of the idols in Athens? What are some of the idols our culture worships today? What does Luke (the author of Acts) say Paul did with the Jews and devout people? What does it mean by "reasoned?" In what way(s) do you reason with people as you share the gospel? Do you feel equipped to reason and share the gospel? Why or why not? What do you need to feel confident in sharing the gospel? What were the reactions of the people in Athens to Paul's message?

As the chapter concludes in verses 22-34, we see further description of how Paul talked to the Athenians. What stands out to you about the way Paul addressed these people? What can you learn from Paul's method? What does it mean that in God "we live and move and have our being?" Gene Wilkes, president of B.H. Carroll Theological Seminary and former pastor of Legacy, taught us again this past Sunday. Is there anything that he said in his sermon that you would like to discuss further?

Conclusion:

As a group, conclude by visiting legacychurch.org/evangelism to see and discuss various ways of presenting the gospel and begin praying for opportunities to share in the community and marketplace.