

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of June 29, 2014

**This Week's Focus:** How the power of the gospel comes to the City of Athens.

**This Week's Text:** Acts 17:16-34

*For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. **1 Corinthians 9:19-23***

*"Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God, your functional savior." **Martin Luther***

**Related Texts:** Colossians 1:15-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 17:14-18

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What is an idol? What are some modern-day idols?
- What did Paul see and feel as he entered Athens? What does he do and what can we learn from his example?
  - Are we distressed when we see our idols and the idols of our community?
- Discuss and describe the different people groups in our text.
- So far in chapter 17, Paul has visited Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens. Each city presented Paul with a different challenge. How were Paul's presentations of the gospel different? What remained the same?

- What does it look like to be a missionary in your context?
- Discuss the two teams we want to avoid as we live on mission with Jesus: syncretism and separatism.
- How does Paul use their worship of idols to bring them to an understanding of Jesus?
- What are some ways we can connect with others yet remain set apart for God?
- What principles (truths) does Paul layout to show them who the true God is? Reference verses 24-31.
- What is the main point Paul is getting at in verse 27?
- How well did Paul know the culture? How well do you know the culture?
- Paul concludes his message by proclaiming Christ. Reference verses 30-32.
  - Why is that important and significant?
  - Why is the resurrection mentioned?
- How difficult is it to turn conversations around to the gospel?
- How would you explain this truth to someone who does not know Jesus?
- Discuss the three responses to Paul's sermon. References verses 32-34.

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.
- Jesus looked down from heaven and saw our idolatry, and did not run from it, did not emulate it, but engaged this broken world to save us from our sin.

### **Prayer:**

- Pray for opportunity and wisdom to share Christ.
- Pray for wisdom as we live on mission and engage cultural and racial differences for the cause of Christ.

**Next Week's Text:** The Gospel according to Moses. Exodus 1-3