

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **September 27, 2020** sermon, "Something New." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 17:16-21) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN MINISTERING AMONG THOSE WHO LACK KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, BEGIN BY . . .

1. Assessing the circumstances. (16)
 - a. It's important to ascertain your audience's beliefs, knowledge and understanding.
 - b. In Athens, idols were everywhere. They were very learned and very spiritual.
 - c. Every idol is a substitute; an attempt to have a god before God himself (Ex 20:1-6).
2. Prioritizing the approach. (17)
 - a. Feel the angst and internal provoked spirit within you, friends!
 - b. Paul begins at the beginning: not first a risen Savior, but first the Almighty, Creator God.
3. Discerning the worldviews. (18)
 - a. As learning increases, idols increase. Athens tried to "coexist" with multiplied "gods."
 - b. But there is tension as powerless idols are put in the place of the one true God.
 - c. Lean into the uniqueness and deity of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead the third day.
4. Managing the opportunities. (19-21)
 - a. The pluralists want to hear more from the exclusivist. Be ready to present Christ alone.
 - b. Paul presents Christ not only in the synagogue, but before the revered philosophers.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: In Sheboygan County, idols are everywhere. Name them. Do you think people would admit that they have multiplied idols? What do your friends understand about God? What do they misunderstand?
2. Based on #2, above: We talk a lot about on-ramps in our discussions with friends and neighbors about Jesus because we believe that every believer must be equipped to have conversations with unbelievers. What is your "marketplace" (or 'Agora')? Where do you go to interact with unbelievers? What is your most effective on-ramp to reason about Almighty God? What are some approaches that simply do not work?
3. Based on #3, above: Describe the mostly widely held worldviews that you encounter. In what ways do these worldviews sound good or spiritual? In what ways are they simply impotent substitutes for God?
4. Based on #4, above: We have been taught to avoid conflict (don't talk about politics or religion). But the reality is that even learned philosophers need to hear about the exclusive power and reign of Jesus. In fact, many of them invite these discussions. Many want to hear more. In what ways have you found this to be true? How do you come to a place of contentment that some absolutely want to hear more, but others absolutely reject all attempts toward discussions about a living, sovereign, all-powerful God?