

UNSTOPPABLE

THE CHURCH JESUS INTENDED

STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Teaching: *The 7 Church Gotta's*

Key Scripture: Acts 17:16–34

CEDAR VALLEY

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: Acts 27:1-26

Tuesday: Acts 27:27-44

Wednesday: Acts 28: 1-16

Thursday: Acts 28:17-31

Friday: Reflection or Catch-up day

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

What is the Church supposed to do after church? When we're sitting in a church service, it's easy for us to think about what we're going to do next—lunch, a nap, or gather with friends. But what is the mission of the Church? We don't go to church; we are the Church! We were never meant to stay gathered in a building—we were always meant to be sent into the world. In Acts 17, Paul demonstrates what it looks like to be on mission wherever we go. When Paul entered Athens, he was angered by the idols but also felt compassion for the people. As we study this passage together, consider what it means to engage the people and places God has already put in your life. When the Church exits the building, the Church begins the mission.

Questions:

Ice Breaker: What is something people in our culture commonly look to for happiness, purpose, or fulfillment?

1. Read Acts 17:16-34 together as a group. What was it that "deeply troubled" Paul about Athens? What does Luke (the author of Acts) want us to understand about the spiritual condition of the city?
2. In this passage, Paul does a great job modeling how to share the gospel with unchurched people. He observes them (not attacks them), finds common ground, and gets to the point in Acts 17:22-23. What is your comfort level in "getting to the point" when you are talking to others about the gospel?

3. What truths about God does Paul emphasize in verses 24-29? Which of these truths would have challenged the Athenians' beliefs about their gods?
4. What is Paul's main call to action in verses 30-31? Why does he connect repentance with the resurrection and coming judgment?
5. How do people respond to Paul's message in verses 32-34? What do these different responses teach us about sharing the gospel?
6. Have you ever shared the gospel with someone and they weren't interested? Or talk about a time when it did work! Share your experiences together.
7. Which part of Paul's example in Athens challenges you most: being burdened for people, stepping into culture, finding common ground, clearly talking about Jesus, getting to the point, 1. or inviting people to respond? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

Background on Athens:

"Athens was a prominent Greek city-state since the 5th century BCE. Renowned for democracy and intellectual prowess, especially of the philosophical variety... Epicureans pursued pleasure as the chief purpose in life and valued most of all the pleasure of a peaceful life, free from pain, disturbing passions, and superstitious fears. They did not deny the existence of the gods, but they believed they had nothing to do with humanity... Stoics were pantheists who put great emphasis on moral sincerity and a high sense of duty. They cultivated a spirit of proud dignity... The Areopagus was a hill located just west of the Acropolis in Athens, named after Ares, the Greek god of war... the Roman name for Ares is 'Mars' (Roman god of war). Therefore, the Romans referred to this location as 'Mars Hill,' as some English translations render it."

—Dr. Michael Rowntree

Read all of Acts 17 and note the differences in how Paul engaged the people in these 3 cities: Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens. What do you notice?

For example, in Thessalonica and Berea, there is a Jewish presence in these cities. He reasons from the Scriptures in these 2 cities because they knew the Jewish Scriptures. But in Athens, Paul doesn't reason from the Scriptures because they did not know them. Instead, Paul proclaims biblical truths without quoting from the Bible. Instead, he quotes Greek poets the people knew and showed them how even these poets point to the truth in the Bible. He commends their devotion to gods without affirming those other gods. He builds bridges and speaks to them in ways they can understand. How can you do this in your own life as you share the hope you have in Jesus with others?