



study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.



INTRODUCTION

Sometimes you have to get out of your “village” and look back to find out what’s really real. That’s the experience we often have when we fellowship with other believers in Jesus in another part of the world. Their insights into the Bible, for example, reveal things we have missed because of the way our minds are trained to think in this country.

Not only was the gospel born in another time, and culture entirely from our, but within scripture itself there are many different cultures Jesus speaks to through his followers.

All of that is to say: God’s truth is timeless truth. The message of Jesus translates into every language, time, and culture of human existence.

That’s quite a gift our Heavenly Father has given us!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever come across someone who gave you a whole new understanding of a passage of scripture that you thought you knew? What was that like and how did you determine if it was true?
2. Here in Portland we have lots of religious philosophies many of which don’t even call themselves religions – though that’s how they really operate. Have you ever had a conversation with someone held one of those views which was outside of Christianity? How did it go?
3. **Read together Acts 17:16-34.** Imagine yourself as Paul wandering through Athens. How are you going to talk to these people who believe things that are strange to you?
 - a. What do you make of Paul affirming the philosophers he’s talking to before telling them about Jesus and his resurrection? He actually shows a few points of cultural and philosophical agreement!
 - b. What is Paul’s main point about why the resurrection is an event not a religion? (Notice in the end people are so used to looking at all religions just in case that they assume “resurrection” is Paul’s deity)
 - c. What does it do for your soul that Paul ministered in a city not that different than yours philosophically? And he only convinced a few people! [v. 34]
4. Is there someone you need to share Jesus with, but you’re afraid they will think you’re just trying to draw them into your religion? How can your group pray with you as you ask Jesus to help you know how and when?

MOVING FORWARD

To have the “light”, is a gift directly from God himself. As Jesus said, no one comes to know Jesus unless the Father draws them. It’s good to know that isn’t it?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“For in him we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:28

JESUS FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

Acts 17:16-34