

### **Marinating in God's Word: Acts 17:16-34**

*Sent!* They were and we are. So we're learning from Acts about what it means to be sent by Jesus, with Jesus' people, to do Jesus' work, in the power of Jesus' Spirit!

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Paul engaged different cultures and religions at each of his stops. What can we know about Athens from this description?
- Paul was disgusted with the widespread idolatry (v. 16). It's hard for us to imagine bowing to an idol, yet idolatry is woven through our culture too. In what forms? What are its appeals? How do Christians get sucked in?
- Despite his disgust with idolatry, Paul found a way to honor and connect with his hearers (v. 22-23). How? In what ways can we honor those who don't believe in Jesus? Is that just a "sales gimmick," or is there something genuinely gospel-like in honoring everyone? How so?
- As Paul addressed them, he didn't start with Jesus, but finally got there – though without mentioning his name (v. 31). Why did Paul take this approach?
- If we begin with the questions our culture asks, what are they? How do those questions vary by age and stage in life? By the groups asking?
- If we flex in presenting the gospel in order to get a hearing, what is the gospel core that can't be lost? As Paul shared part of that core (v. 31-32), what impact did it have?

Next week our focus will be on Acts 18:1-17.