

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

Acts 17:16-34

Session Summary

On Paul's second missionary journey in Athens, he was struck by the idolatry of the Athenians. His distress over the spiritual darkness of the city did not lead him to bitterness or despair; rather, it moved him to action. In Acts 17, we get a clear glimpse into Paul's heart for the lost and his burden over people's separation from God. Paul was motivated by a love for God and for people. When we are motivated by love for people, it will change the way we try to evangelize. Love shapes our tone and enables us not to add barriers or stumbling blocks in front of people beyond the message of the cross and the demands of the gospel itself.

Paul met his audience where they were at culturally and spiritually and brought them to the truth of God. He used their worship of a God they didn't know to tell them about the true God who they could know through Jesus. He quoted their own poets as a way of demonstrating that God is not an idol, but a living and personal being like us, since we have been made in His image. We must have the wisdom to contextualize the message of the gospel within each culture and setting. We may find common ground with people's background or testimony, or we may find common ground with some fundamental beliefs or ideas. It won't look or sound the exact same for us, but the principle remains the same.

- What are some important things we learn about God from Paul's sermon in Acts 17?
- How can we develop a heart that is burdened for the lost?
- How would evangelism that is motivated by love look different than evangelism that is not?
- What are some ways we can build bridges with unbelievers in our own community?

Encourage each family member to research evangelism methods and choose a favorite, or assign each family member an evangelism method to study. Later in the week, choose an evening for each person to present the gospel to the rest of the family using their method. Which method does the whole family think communicated the best? Which method built a bridge with the audience? Discuss how you all can share Jesus more faithfully and consistently.