



Answer Key

Lesson 4: Mars Hill — The Mountain of Testimony

Acts 17:16–34

Theme

The gospel engages culture with *truth*.

Mountains We Have Climbed

1. Mount **Sinai** – The Mount of **Ten Commandments**
2. Mount **Moriah** – The Mount of **Testing**
3. Mount **Beatitudes** – The Mount of **Teaching**
4. Mars Hill – The Mount of **Testimony**

Key Truth

The gospel engages culture with *truth*.

I. The Perception of Culture

A. Paul Observed the Culture Carefully

Paul saw the city was wholly given to **idolatry**.

Paul chose to understand the culture without **surrendering** to it.

Application

- What concerns do people around me have?
- What **fears** do they carry?
- What are they searching for?
- What **idols** have replaced God?

Understanding culture is not *compromise*; it is preparation for ministry.

B. Paul Felt Burdened for the Culture

Paul's spirit was **stirred** within him.

He saw beyond the beauty of Athens and recognized its **spiritual** darkness.

Our response to culture should not be **criticism** but **compassion**.

Truth must always be shared with **love**.

C. Paul Engaged the Culture Wisely

Paul reasoned in the synagogue and in the **marketplace** every day.

Paul did not wait for people to come to him.

He chose to **go**.

II. The Point of Contact

A. Paul Found Common Ground

Paul discovered an altar dedicated:

"TO THE **UNKNOWN** GOD."

He began where they were and pointed them to the **true** God.

Common Bridges to the Gospel

- Family

- **Purpose**
- Fear of **death**
- Desire for **peace**
- Longing for **forgiveness**

B. Paul Used Familiar Language

Paul changed his **approach**,
but never changed the **message**.

Methods may change.

The **gospel** never changes.

C. Paul Built a Bridge

Every gospel conversation should eventually point people to **Christ**.

Friendships matter.

Kindness matters.

But every bridge should lead people to the **gospel**.

III. The Proclamation of Christ

A. Paul Declared the Creator

Acts 17:24

God made the **world**.

God gives **life**.

God alone is worthy of **worship**.

Without God, life becomes **accidental**.

With God, life becomes **intentional**.

B. Paul Called for Repentance

Acts 17:30

God commands all people everywhere to **repent**.

Repentance is making a spiritual **U-turn**.

Everyone is invited,

but salvation comes only through **Christ**.

C. Paul Preached the Resurrection

Acts 17:31

The resurrection gives assurance that Jesus is **Lord**.

The resurrection changes **everything**.

It confirms Christ's **authority**.

It validates the **gospel message**.

Because Jesus lives,
we have **hope**.

Three Truths from Mars Hill

1. Understand the **culture** before addressing it.
2. Build **bridges** that lead to gospel conversations.
3. Share **Christ** boldly and clearly.

Memory Statement

The gospel engages culture with ***truth***.

This Week's Challenge

Who has God placed in your life that needs the gospel?

What bridge can you build this week?

How will you intentionally share Christ this week?

Discussion Questions

1. What can we learn from Paul's approach to witnessing in Athens?
2. Why is cultural awareness important when sharing the gospel?
3. What "unknown gods" do people in our culture worship today?
3. Who has God placed in your life that needs to hear the gospel?

What bridge can you build this week that could lead to a gospel conversation?

Key Verse:

Acts 17:23 Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."