

HOME GROUPS

Discussion Questions for **Acts 17 "Knowing God"**
Week of February 28th - March 6th, 2010

Warm Up Begin Home Group tonight by seeking the Lord together in prayer for our beloved Gates family.

- In **Acts 17:3** we see Paul reason with the Jews from the Scriptures regarding the reality that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. He shows them how Jesus is this Messiah. What were the varying responses to this teaching? (see **v.4-9**) Why were the Jews *envious* or *jealous*? When talking with others about Jesus we must be ready for the opposition that comes when a person's worldview or lifestyle becomes threatened. Can you share an example of how you've seen this take place?
- What factors contributed to such a different response of the Jews in Berea? (see **Acts 17:10-12**) What does this passage teach us about what "fair mindedness" actually looks like? How might this impact *how* or *with whom* you share your faith?
- From **Acts 17:21** as well as Paul's sermon recorded in **22-34**, describe the cultural landscape you see prominent in Athens. What parallels do you see with our culture today?
- Why might some consider Paul's preaching in Athens to have been ineffective? What reasons did Pastor George share on Sunday that might indicate otherwise?
- Paul encounters "**certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers**" (see **17:18**). The Epicureans were those who followed the teachings of Epicurus (341-270 B.C.) who said the chief end of humankind was pleasure and happiness. This pleasure, they believed, was attained by avoiding excess and the fear of death, by seeking tranquility and freedom from pain, and by loving other people. They believed that *if* gods existed they were not involved in events on this earth.¹ What false religion(s) does this remind you of? Why is it important to see that there really are no new doctrines out there but rather just re-packaged falsehoods?

Wrap Up: We live amidst countless amounts of people who are ignorant of the One True God. Pray that God would use your Home Group to be a loving and caring voice to those who are so desperately searching for truth in this life.

¹ Nelson Study Bible Note, p. 1853