

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – November 13-18
Doing Life Together – Inside Out Pt. 7

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: Acts 17:16

OBSERVATION: Paul is waiting in Athens for his travel companions, Silas and Timothy. He was sent ahead alone because of the risk of violence from an unruly mob in the cities in which he had been. Although he is supposed to wait for them, Paul isn't one for inactivity. He sees that the city is full of idols, and is greatly distressed and moved to action. God alone is great. Mute idols of stone, gold, or silver ought not steal praise from God. So, Paul begins to preach, both in the synagogue and in the marketplace.

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Acts 17:22

OBSERVATION: Paul begins an extraordinary speech. The next nine verses are absolutely packed with wisdom about how to share the gospel in a critical and pluralistic setting. When teaching this section, give the group several minutes to read and observe what Paul does and says. Then, brainstorm together the principles that you can model on your campus. Below are several observations to get you started. There are undoubtedly more that you and your group may see.

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Acts 17:23

OBSERVATION: Paul studied their culture. We, too, need to know the culture of the people we seek to reach. By what are they entertained? What are their political views? How do they view spirituality, morality, and philosophy? Because he studied the culture, Paul also found a launching point for the gospel within their circle of knowledge. What are the movies, sitcoms, beliefs or issues already in people's consciousness that can be a bridge to talking about Jesus?

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: Acts 17:24-26

OBSERVATION: Paul affirms the majesty and sovereignty of god. This is particularly important, given the lifeless rocks they were presently worshipping. god is superior to everything people seek to fill His place in their lives. Show them that He is better and can better meet their deepest longings!

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: Acts 17:28-30

OBSERVATION: Paul quotes their poets. He was well read and was able to make a point by drawing from sources with which they were likely to agree. Verses 29-30: He condemns idolatry in general, without pointing a finger specifically. He's incredibly gracious, even as he critiques their behavior honestly.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: Acts 17:30-32

OBSERVATION: He calls them to repent, and warns them that a judgment is coming. He is not so concerned about being culturally relevant that he removes essential parts of the message. Though he is drawing on Biblical knowledge throughout, he never directly quotes the Bible. As it would not be perceived as authoritative, or even accurate, it was better not to source it. With a Jewish audience, he quoted the Bible constantly. Verse 32: Paul earns another hearing, where he can continue to tell them about Christ, probably in more complete terms.