

# Paul taught in Athens

## LIFE POINT

People can tell about the one true God.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 17:16-34

## UNIT VERSE:

Preschool- Go and tell the good news about Jesus. Mark 16:15

Elementary- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 (NIV)

## A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Parents, today your child will learn that people can tell about the one true God. When Paul noticed how Athens was filled with idols, he boldly taught in the marketplace and the Areopagus about the one true God and His Son, Jesus.

Paul experienced a different kind of congestion when his missionary journey took him to Athens, Greece. This city is the home of the original Parthenon dedicated to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, inspiration, civilization, the arts, and more. While he waited for Silas and Timothy to arrive, he was distressed not by traffic but by the idols that dotted the city and misled the people. After Paul saw these ungodly influences, he preached both in the Jewish synagogue and in the marketplace to the Gentiles. Those in Athens were always interested to learn something new, so they welcomed Paul and invited him to the Areopagus (also known as Mars Hill).

Paul was courteous in his address, recognizing how religious the people were by virtue of the many gods and goddesses represented. Paul began to tell them about the God they did not know but were searching for: the God who does not live in temples and is not made by hand. Paul preached the gospel beginning with God's creation of the world, to the sacrifice and resurrection of His Son, and ending with a call to repent and escape God's judgment. The revelation of Christ's resurrection was a dividing point among the crowd. Only some believed.

## Paul Taught in Athens

—Based on Acts 17:16-34

Paul had been many places to tell people about Jesus. He traveled to the city of Athens. While there, Paul went to the synagogue (church) and talked to the people about Jesus. Paul went to the marketplace every day and told about Jesus to anyone he met.

Some men heard Paul teaching about Jesus. They had never heard about Jesus. They wanted to know more. The men asked Paul to go with them to a special meeting place on a hill. People came from all over Athens to the hill.

Paul stood up in the meeting and said, "I want to tell you what I know about God. God created the world and everything in it. He made all people, and He loves all people. He wants people to love Him." Paul told the people about Jesus, God's Son.

Some of the people did not believe what Paul was saying. Some people wanted Paul to come back and talk again. And some people believed what Paul said about God and Jesus. Paul helped people in Athens learn about Jesus.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where were some of the places Paul talked to the people about God?
- Where did the men ask Paul to meet them?
- What did Paul tell the people about God?
- Where was Paul when he saw that the city was full of idols? (Athens)
- Where did Paul teach about Jesus? (synagogue, marketplace, Areopagus)
- What did Paul say about God? (Answers will vary, but might include God made the world and everything in it, He made people of all nations, God proved He is the one true God by raising Jesus from the dead.)
- Did everyone who heard Paul's words believe them? (Answers will vary, but might include: some laughed or made fun of him, some wanted to learn more, some believed)
- According to Acts 1:8, how do believers in Jesus receive power? (through the Holy Spirit)
- What is one thing that you know about the one true God? (Answers will vary.)

## BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### **\*Color Sheet**

*Things you need: Print color sheet and crayons*

As you read today's lesson to your child, have them color the color sheet.

### **\*What Do You Know?**

*Things you need: Sheet of paper, markers or crayons, and Bible*

Ask your child to write on their paper, "Things I know about Jesus". (if your child cannot spell yet, you may have to help them) Have them write out what they know about Jesus. For younger children, you write what they say about Him, or have them draw the things they know.

*\*\*Optional for help\*\**

Guide your child to find Acts 17 in their Bibles. Help them read through verses 22-31 to find some characteristics of the one true God that Paul tells the people of Athens about. Let your child write phrases or illustrate ideas that they can tell about God and His Son, Jesus. Some of these might include:

He made the world (17:24).

He does not live in shrines or temples made by people (17:24).

He gives life and breath to everyone (17:25).

He is near to people (17:27).

He raised His Son, Jesus back to life (17:31).

Ask your child to think of other facts that they can tell about Jesus. Add the ideas to the art mural. Remind your child that Christians are called to tell the people all over the world about Jesus. People can tell about the one true God, and the one He sent, His Son, Jesus.

Hang the mural somewhere in your house so your child can see it as a reminder of all the things they can tell others about Jesus.

### **\*Design a Hill**

*Things you need: Bible, blue paper, brown paper, green paper, other paper scraps, glue sticks, washable markers, crayons, flower and plant stickers that you may have (OR just paper and crayons)*

Talk about the Bible story. Say that Paul met other people on Mars Hill and told them about God and Jesus.

Invite your child to make a picture of a hill or mountain. They can tear paper into shapes to create landforms.

They can make flowers, streams, or other details on their hills and mountains.

Remind them that God chose Paul to be a missionary. Say that Paul traveled to many places to tell about God. Note that people today tell others about God and Jesus.

### **\*Make a Hill**

*Things you need: Lego or blocks of some sort, Play people of any type*

Encourage your child to use blocks to create their very own hill. You can even use any play people that you have. Have your child play out the story of Paul telling others about God and Jesus on Mars Hill.

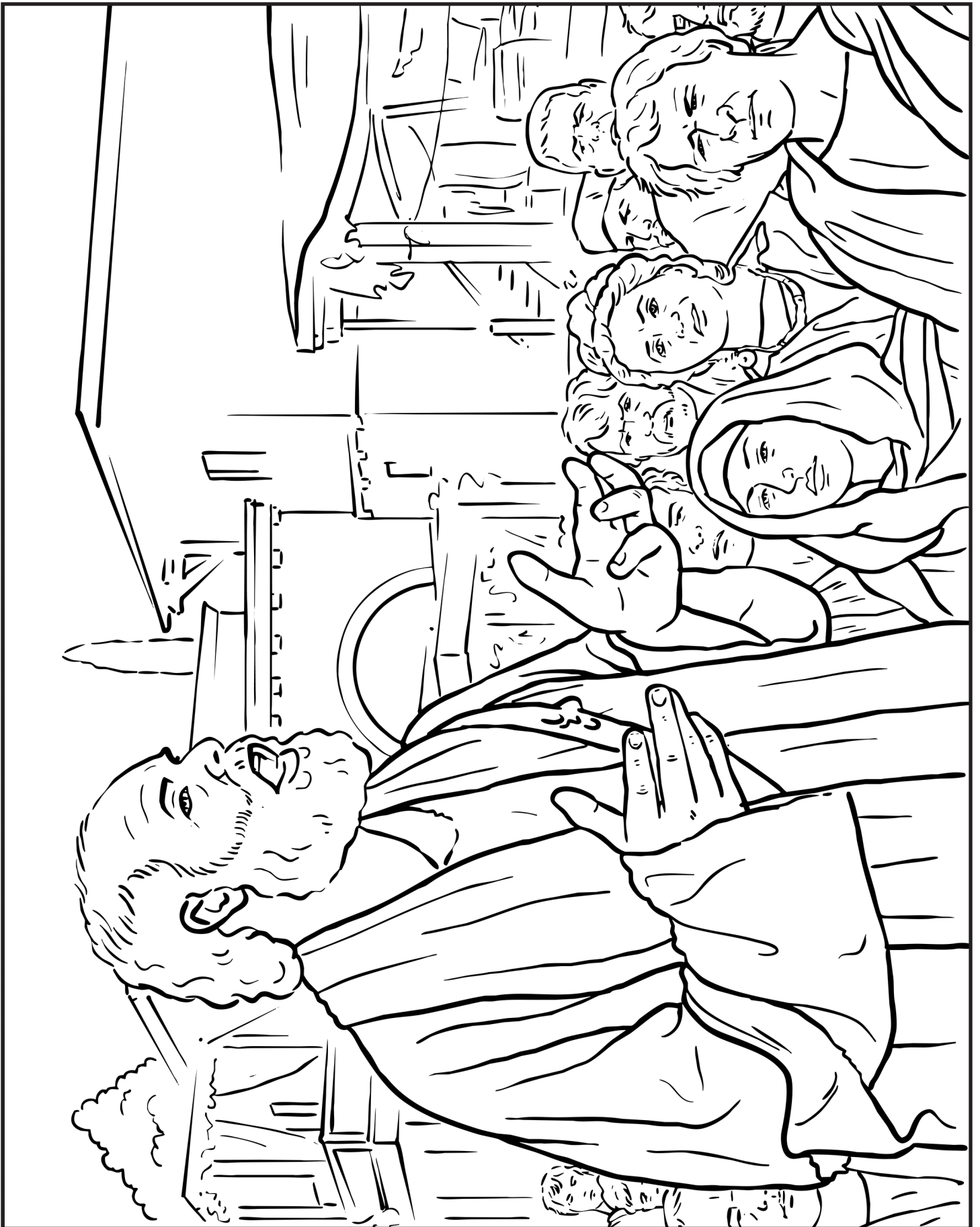
### **\*Pray**

*Things you need: nothing*

Pray and thank God that we can know all about Him and His Son. Thank Him for the gift of the Bible. Have your child pray, thanking God for the different things they know about Him. (Ex. thank you God for your masterpiece of creation, thank you that you breathe life into us, thank you for being near to us all the time, etc.)

*Extra activity sheets attached below*





## Paul Taught in Athens

We must tell what we have seen and heard about Jesus. Acts 4:20

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But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

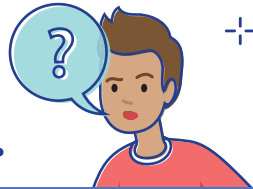
ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

### How Can You Tell About Jesus?

With a friend, read each situation. Decide how you and your friend could use the situation to tell someone about Jesus.



Camryn was hurt at a baseball game and won't be able to play the rest of the summer.



Your best friend asked you why you aren't angry when things go wrong.



Mia placed third at the gymnastics meet and is very disappointed she didn't get a better score.



Tyler and Latisha were talking about how unfair the homework assignment is.



Your cousin asked you why you have to go to church every week.



Two kids from your class were making fun of a younger kid at recess.

### What Can You Do?

Unscramble the words below to learn what you can do.

I n c a l e t l o u b a t

e h t n e o r u t e d G o .

# UNIT 3

## SESSION 3

### Paul Taught in Athens

**UNIT VERSE**  
Go and tell the good news  
about Jesus.  
— MARK 16:15

## Then and Now

Many years ago, Paul taught about Jesus at the synagogue (church), at a marketplace, and at a meeting place on a hill. Point to places where Paul taught. Name the places we may go today.



Image Credit: istock

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

# LOOK AND TELL

Look at the puzzle. Cross out all the X, Y, and Z letters. Write the remaining letters in the blanks below to discover the Life Point.

P X Z X Y E Y X Y O P X Z X Y Z Y Y X  
Y L X Z Y E Y Y Z Z X C A Y Z X N Z Y  
T Y X Y E X Z Y Y L X Y Z L Y X Z Z A  
B Y X Z Y O Y Y X Z Y U T Y Z Z X Y T  
Y Y H Z Y E X X O Y X N Y Z X E X T Y  
R Z Z X X Y U Z Y Z E X X G Z Y O X D.

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What can you tell about the one true God?

