

THE UNKNOWN GOD (PAUL IN ATHENS)

Acts 17:22–34

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Acts 17:31

MEMORY VERSE

"For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." **Acts 17:31**

At the age of three, she stood at the edge of the Grand Canyon and asked, "Did God make all of this?" Somehow, God has placed the knowledge of Himself into the hearts and minds of children. In fact, He has made Himself known throughout all of creation (Rom. 1:20). All we have to see the God of Creation is observe the majestic display of stars, mountains, canyons, oceans, waterfalls, and rock formations.

Read Acts 17:22–34. Isn't it amazing how God always gave Paul just the right things to say? Here he was among a group of intellectuals who did nothing but sit around and discuss deep thoughts. Paul knew how to approach these thinkers with just the right balance of the conceptual and the concrete. He hoped this mix of

ideas would lead them to the truth of Christ. Oh sure, some sneered and declared that Paul's message was nonsense, but still others wanted to know more. Their desire to know truth led them to God . . . the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

There are so many influences in the lives of teenagers today. All these influences claim to be the way and the truth, but none of them lead to life. Paul declared the Living God, the Author of Life.

Many students today might know that God exists, but they need us to stand as Paul stood among the Athenians. They need us to declare the truth.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

The family takes a sheet of paper and begins to list all the things that vie for their attention and allegiance. As the list is made, the family relays what they know about the things listed. Lastly, the family writes "God" at the end of the list, and a family member asks: **What do we know about God?**

Explore . . .

A family member reads Acts 17:22–34. Ask: **What did the Athenians not know about God? How different do you think the Athenians are from people today in their knowledge of who God is? If God is the "Lord of Heaven and Earth," and we know it, what keeps us from declaring it to others who do not know Him?**

Transform . . .

Take out the list you made in the Connect section. A family member reads: **Imagine that everything we listed is among the idols in Athens. We could erect a statue to it and label it by its name. But then we come to the one statue that is labeled, "To an Unknown God." We say to ourselves, "He isn't unknown to me." But in fact, He is to others. What will we say to others about this Unknown God that would cause them to want to know Him?**

Pray that your family will become a strong witness to the truth about the Unknown God