

# Reaching Out (Acts 17:16-32)

## Basic Training – Part 5

Life Church St. Louis – October 11, 2015

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

*Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

*Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*Acts 1:8 (NIV) 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."*

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ your world

#### 1A. Have \_\_\_\_\_ on unbelievers

*Acts 17:16 (NIV) While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.*

#### 1B. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about Jesus

*Acts 17:17-18 (NIV) So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. ... They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.*

### 2. Look for \_\_\_\_\_ ground

*Acts 17:22-23 (NIV) Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found*

*an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.*

### 2A. Talk about God as \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 17:24 (NIV) "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.*

### 2B. Talk about God's \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 17:26-27 (NIV) From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.*

### 3. Share the \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus

#### 3A. People must \_\_\_\_\_ of their sin

*Acts 17:30 (NIV) In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.*

#### 3B. People must \_\_\_\_\_ in the risen Lord Jesus

*Acts 17:31 (NIV) 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."*

#### 3C. Expect three \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 17:32-34 (NIV) When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." ... A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.*

# Reaching Out (Acts 17:16-32) Study Guide

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Intro. Why are we often tempted to think that our enemy is lost people (Ephesians 6:12)?

Why is it important to realize that our enemy is Satan and his forces?

How is the Great Commission the most important command for all believers in our spiritual warfare (Matthew 28:18-20)?

To whom does Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8 apply to?

1A. Why are we often reticent to engage our world with the Gospel?

1B. Why was Paul distressed by the idolatry of Athens (Acts 17:16)?

1C. Where did Paul engage people with spiritual truth (Acts 17:17-18)?

1D. How can you grow in your compassion and boldness to reach the lost?

2A. In what ways did Paul establish common ground with his listeners in Athens (Acts 17:22-23)?

2B. How can talking about God as creator open a door to speaking of spiritual truth (Acts 17:24)?

2C. How can talking about God's purpose for man speak to those far from God (Acts 17:26-27)?

2D. What are some ways that you could engage people you know in spiritual conversations?

3A. Why must the goal of our witnessing be to talk about Jesus?

3B. How is the message of repentance the first step in the good news of Jesus (Acts 17:30)?

3C. Why is the truth of judgement day and the resurrection of Jesus important in witnessing (Acts 17:31)?

3D. Describe the three responses to Paul's witness in Athens (Acts 17:32-34).

3E. Why do many believers not know if the people in their circle of relationships are saved or not?

3F. How do most people in our country believe that one is saved?

3G. Who can you pray for that God would give you opportunities to witness to?