

Transition:

At this point in Paul's missionary journey, he arrives in Athens. And like a faithful emissary, he engages with whoever happens to be in front of him at that moment! Athens is full of philosophers, foreigners and idol worship. When he engaged with Jews, Paul would reason with them from the Scriptures and quote Moses, Abraham and David. But here, among the Gentiles, he takes a different approach.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the main religious belief in Athens at that time?
2. Why would Paul quote some of their own poetry back to them?
3. Was Paul successful in this encounter?

Fundamental:

God as Creator – God can do all things, nothing is too hard for Him, and all things are possible with Him. This is why we call Him omnipotent. As Creator, the exercise of God's omnipotence is limited by His own wise and holy and loving will. God can do anything, but will do only what infinite wisdom and holiness and love dictate.

1. What has God ultimately created us for? (Rom 11:36; Rev 4:11; Ps 16:5-11)
2. How is human creativity different from God's creativity?
3. Why does God forbid idolatry? (Ex 20:4-6)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Memorize the seven days of creation in Genesis 1 & 2 – know that it was good.
2. Please read Acts 18 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Happy is the man who voluntarily subjects himself to God's will and word.

Prayer:

Father, You created us. We are yours to do with as You see fit.