

NOTES



PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to embrace the truth that Your love extends through generations, weaving a beautiful tapestry of faithfulness and continuity. Remind us to take heart in knowing that Your presence transcends time, guiding each generation with Your unchanging love and grace. As we encounter the challenges and joys of life, help us to remember the invitation to witness Your redemptive power at work within the Next Generation. Encourage us to engage with the youth in our community with a heart filled with love, understanding, and a desire to impart the timeless truths of the Gospel. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What is the best advice you've received about life?

WORD

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. 19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" 20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." 21 (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 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. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 "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 human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. Paul's spirit was stirred after seeing the idols within the city of Athens. What idols within your sphere of influence do you consider take precedence and how might God be stirring your spirit to align these spaces with the gospel of Christ? Take time also to pray for the pulling down of the identified idols and covering over those you interact with in the "marketplace".
2. How can we as a life group and individuals, authentically walk in building intentional intergenerational relationships? What does this realistically look like?
3. What are the cultural elements you can identify as areas to grow in discerning how to apply the gospel to share with the next generation and your current marketplace?
4. Consider in prayer if there are any stoic (controlling and rationalising life with logic) and/or epicurean (self indulgence and gratification) tendencies you might attribute to aspects of your life. Consider also verses 24 to 28. What are the areas in your life God is inviting you to allow the gospel to be at work and walk in knowing it's only through Him that we live, move and have our being? How can this then bless the next generation?
5. Would you like to receive Jesus Christ, giving full control of all you have as your Creator, Redeemer and Comforter during this time? Ask your leaders to guide you through the prayer below as you dedicate your entire life to seeing God reign? Pray the prayer below with a trusted leader:

"Lord Jesus, I recognize that I am a sinner in need of Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and rose again. I repent of my sins and invite You to come into my life as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for Your grace and mercy. Help me to follow You all the days of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen."