

# Saved by Grace

*The Unknown God – Acts 17*

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Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact [bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au](mailto:bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au)

**Have you ever told someone about Jesus and it seemed they just didn't understand you?**

**Read Acts 17:16-21**

2. When Paul came into Athens, what did he see and how did he react? Why did he react in this way? How should we react when we see a world that worships its modern-day idols?
3. Who did Paul reason with? Who would have been in the marketplace? How did they respond to Paul?
4. What do Epicureans and Stoics believe with regard to god/s? (Google is your friend!)
5. Why do you think some considered Paul a 'babbler'?
6. How important do you think it is for preachers to understand their audience?

**Read Acts 17:22-31**

6. How does Paul show that he has done his homework on this audience?
7. How is this presentation of the gospel different to some others in Acts (ie, what is included vs what is left out)?
8. Why is it important to know that God is all-powerful and doesn't need to be served by humans? How might this be different to common beliefs about God in Australian culture?
9. In what ways has God made it possible to know him? (see also Eccl 3:11; Rom 1:19-20)
10. Why then do people exchange this knowledge of God in favour of worshipping other gods?
11. How might Paul's speech have resonated with those who believed in distant, unknowable god/s?
12. Jesus only gets mentioned in the last bit of Paul's speech. How does he fit in to what Paul is saying?

**Read Acts 17:32-34**

11. What are the three responses to Paul's message?
12. Why should we bother getting to know our audience and our message?

*Pray that God might grant us opportunities to share our faith with others! Pray that God will help us to know the right approaches to take.*