

## A Time of Grace - November 15

**Parents:** During this time of grace, we get to hear the good news of Jesus proclaimed. In the book of Acts, Paul boldly shared this powerful message to the Greeks in Athens. As you and your child read about Paul, think of ways to spread God's Word to others today!

**Read:** Acts 17:16-34 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 babbler 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. 31 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 everyone by raising him from the dead." 32 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." 33 At that, Paul left the Council. 34 Some of the people 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.

**Discuss:** Where is Athens? *It is the capital and largest city in Greece.* Why was Paul deeply distressed or upset while he was there? *The city was full of idols. Paul knew the people were not worshipping the true God. They were bowing down to all the wrong things.* Did Paul shake his head and move on to the next city or did he try to reason with them? *Paul knew it was his job to tell them the good news of Jesus.* What did Paul share with the people of Athens? *He said that God made the world and everything in it. God doesn't live in a temple and need people to provide things. It's the other way around, God gives us life and everything we need. Paul also shared about how God raised Jesus from the dead so that we could be forgiven of our sins and one day be in heaven with Him.* Did everyone believe what Paul was proclaiming? *Some did not believe and made fun of him, some wanted to hear more, and some like Dionysus and Damaris believed.* How can you be like Paul and tell others about Jesus?



**Key Point: Share the News of Jesus**

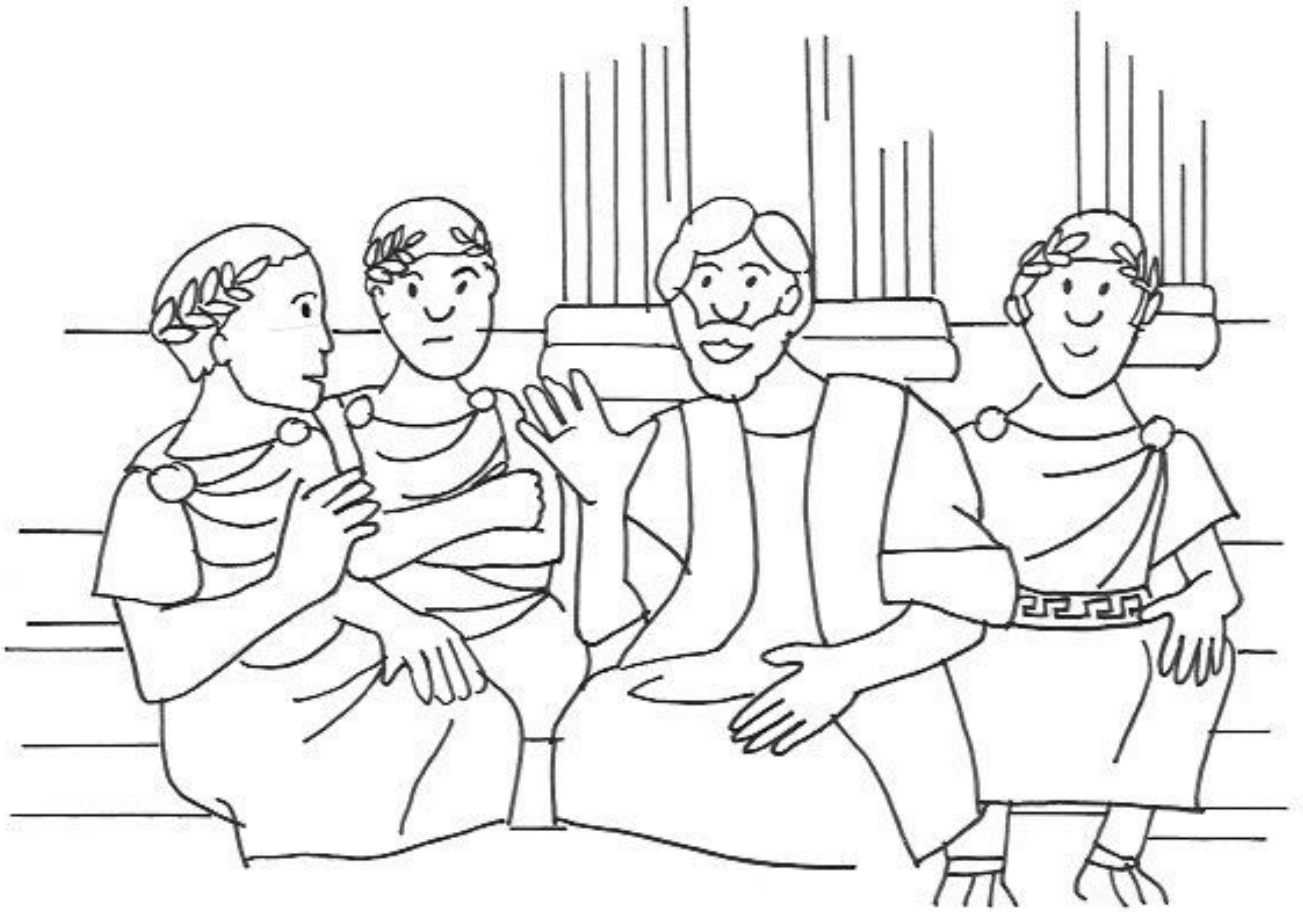
Share the News (Cup hands around your mouth and pretend to speak)

Of Jesus (Place pointer finger in center of opposite palm)

**Family Activity:** Let's talk about how Paul shared the good news of Jesus. Take a look at the coloring sheet with the memory verse. Read the verse together. If you received a craft packet, utilize the supplies or unfold a large piece of newspaper and write the word JESUS in the middle of the paper. Explain that Jesus is the center of everything. Ask your child to find and circle the words or letters of the memory verse within their newspaper. Think of ways your family can share the good news of Jesus with others this week.

**Prayer:** Dear God, We praise You for making the world and everything in it. Forgive me when I don't put You first. You belong number one in my heart. Give me the courage and the words to tell others the Good News. Thanks for putting people in my life that share Your Word and point me to Jesus. Amen.

**Next Steps:** Memorize the words in bold in Acts 17:23 - 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.**



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.** Acts 17:23