



Introduction

We're in week two of a three-week series called *Good News Worth Spreading*. In our pluralistic world the message of Jesus can get muddled with all kinds of other beliefs. So, we're looking at Acts 17 together to see how the first Christians shared the Good News of Jesus in a cultural landscape that was pretty similar to ours today.

In this second lesson, we learn that we can help people find Jesus by keeping our message strategically simple.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What's one spiritual truth you tend to overcomplicate?

Hear God's Story

2. We're in Acts 17:16-34 for this series, but in this session we're looking at Acts 17:24-28 to see how Paul talked about God with simplicity in a way that connected with his audience. Give 17:24-28 a read, while imagining you're one of the philosophers in Athens hearing this from Paul for the first time.
 - a. Just from this short snippet from Paul's presentation of God, what one thing astounds you the most?
3. When Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth, he gave a window into his strategy when talking to others about God. Read what he wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.
 - a. Why can this be hard to put into practice?
 - b. What one thing within you needs some work so you can better be all things to all people like Paul was?
4. Notice in both Acts 17:16-34 and 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 that Paul's all about finding common ground with others, rather than finding things where we're different and then putting up walls.
 - a. How does this still counter-cultural strategy of finding common ground bring glory to God?
 - b. Think of a person in your life who doesn't know God yet. What is one point of connection you have with them that you could explore this next week with them to begin to build up the relationship?

5. In Paul's speech in Athens we see him focusing on the essentials of the Christian message. He communicated that God made the world; our world has fallen into sin; Jesus came to make things right; and God is making a new creation. No complex sidebars, no communication that was only meant to make him look good, just the basics his audience needed to hear.
 - a. What's the actual benefit of keeping our message simple, relative to those we're trying to reach?
 - b. What are some ways we can rekindle a renewed passion for God's powerful "essentials" (or, the basics of the faith) within our personal devotional life?
6. How can what we've talked about make us better representations of God's heart among those who need to know His love?
7. How can what we've talked about be used to draw us closer to God personally?
8. What can you adjust in your prayer life this week to nurture what we've talked about at the heart level, and keep growing spiritually?

Pray

9. Spend a few minutes in prayer as a group praying for what we've discussed, being sure to give God praise in addition to bringing your requests to Him. (How this is specifically done will be the group's decision.)

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children at home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?