



A Heroic Heritage Leaders Tips

June 8/9, 2013

Connect to Others

1. What causes you to stand in awe of God? Being alone in the mountains? Walking on the beach? Working in the garden? Other?

Commit to Growth

Read Acts 17:16-34

1. **Paul traveled and entered Athens, known for its enlightened thinking, immense culture and majestic idols. What was Paul's reaction to the city (17:16)? How did Luke summarize the city (17:21)? How would you respond?**

Paul was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. This was a city full of philosophers who spent much time debating different religions and ideas.

2. **From Acts 17:21, as well as Paul's sermon recorded in 22-34, describe the cultural landscape you see prominent in Athens. What parallels do you see with our culture today?**

Like our culture, they were religious, but had many idols of worship, that distracted them from worshipping the one true God!

3. **How did Paul connect with the crowd (17:22)? How is his sermon unlike the one to Jews in Acts 13:16-41?**

Paul used a modern day reference to connect with them. He didn't quote Scripture; he didn't draw on the history of the church. He focused mostly on their cultural norms and related them to the Gospel.

4. **Why did God create and provide everything for us (17:26-27)? What is an appropriate response from us to God? What does God command men to do (17:30)?**

God did all this so that we would seek Him, turn from their ways and find relationship with Him.

5. **How did Paul indicate his knowledge of Greek poetry (17:28-29)? Why did Paul use this reference of Greek poetry to explain God? What could you use as a point of reference today in your efforts to relate the gospel?**

Paul probably quoted a well-known poet or philosopher of the region. He brought modern culture into the fabric of his gospel presentation. There are many cultural things we can weave into the conversation of faith.

6. **What distresses you spiritually about our culture today? What specific needs do you see? What will you do about it?**

Be specific

7. **Paul presented a great picture of God to the crowd. He proclaimed Him Creator, Provider, Sustainer, Ruler, Judge and Father (17:24-31). Take time to thank God for how He fulfills these roles in your life!**