

On a Mission – to an educated city

Athens – the birthplace of western civilization.

Acts 17 v 16-18 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. ¹⁷He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there. ¹⁸He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, “What’s this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he’s picked up?” Others said, “He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods.” ¹⁹They brought Paul before a council called the Areopagus, and said, “Tell us what your new teaching is all about. ²⁰We have heard you say some strange things, and we want to know what you mean.”

1. Go to where people _____ (not just where people _____)

Acts 17 v 17 CEV He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there.

2. Start _____

Acts 17 v 22 CEV So Paul stood up in front of the council and said: People of Athens, I see that you are very religious.....

3. Find a _____ that the good news answers

Acts 17 v 23 CEV As I was going through your city and looking at the things you worship, I found an altar with the words, “To an Unknown God.”

4. Speak to that _____

Acts 17 v 23b CEV You worship this God, but you don’t really know him. So I want to tell you about him.

5. Tell people what _____

Acts 17 v 24-28 CEV This God made the world and everything in it. He is Lord of heaven and earth, and he doesn’t live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵He doesn’t need help from anyone. ²⁷God has done all this, so that we will look for him and reach out and find him. He isn’t far from any of us.....

6. Use the _____

Acts 17 v 28 CEV and he gives us the power to live, to move, and to be who we are. “We are his children,” just as some of your poets have said.

7. Talk about _____

Acts 17 v 18 CEV Some even said, “Paul must be preaching about foreign gods! That’s what he means when he talks about Jesus and about people rising from death.” Also Acts 17 v 31

8. Don’t forget to mention the _____

Acts 17 v 30 CEV But now he says that everyone everywhere must turn to him.

9. Emphasise the _____ and what it means

Acts 17 v 31 CEV God has given proof of this to all of us by raising Jesus from death.

10. Expect a variety of _____

Acts 17 v 32-34 CEV some of them started laughing. Others said, “We will hear you talk about this some other time.” some of the men put their faith in the Lord