

The Gospel Tells a Better Story

Bulletin

Respond to the world around us by getting into good conversations. (Look for opportunities. Don't expect to get there in one conversation). (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

Paul's Sermon

1. He took time to understand their beliefs. (Acts 17:22-23, Proverbs 18:13)
2. He complimented their devotion. (Acts 17:22, Romans 10:1-3)
3. He built a bridge to shared beliefs. (Acts 17:28)
4. He revealed the inconsistencies in their own beliefs. (Acts 17:25)

Atheists believe in at least 5 miracles.

1. Everything came from nothing.
 2. Order came from chaos.
 3. Life came from non-life.
 4. The personal came from the non-personal.
 5. Morality came from matter.
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5. He told the Better Story (Acts 17:24-27, Revelation 21:1-7)

Small Group Discussion Questions

When's a time you had a good conversation with someone who believed differently than you? What made it go well, or not so well?

If Paul were to walk through our city today, what kinds of "idols" or "unknown gods" do you think he would notice people worshiping? (Acts 17:22–23)

Paul took time to really understand what the Athenians believed before he shared what he believed. How might that kind of patient listening change the tone of our own spiritual conversations?

Think about someone in your life who isn't a Christian. What would it look like to be genuinely curious about their story and beliefs rather than starting from assumptions? (Proverbs 18:13)

Paul found something he could affirm in the Athenians' devotion (Acts 17:22). How can we show appreciation for people's sincerity or zeal without compromising truth?

What are some modern ways we can "build bridges" to common ground like Paul did in quoting their poets (Acts 17:28)? How might that approach open doors for the gospel?

In the sermon, Pastor Josh talked about how God often uses *disruption*—a move, a crisis, or a loss—to make people more open to Him. Have you ever seen that in your own life or someone else's?

The sermon mentioned that many people today believe in "miracles" without realizing it (1. Everything came from nothing. 2. Order came from chaos. 3. Life came from non-life. 4. The personal came from the non-personal. 5. Morality came from matter.) Which of those ideas challenges you or intrigues you most, and why?

The gospel tells a *better story* than the world's story—that we're not accidents, but loved and created with purpose (Acts 17:24–27). How does that truth speak to the doubts or pressures you face in everyday life?

As you think about your own conversations this week, what's one way you can be ready to share that better story, with gentleness, curiosity, and hope? (1 Peter 3:15)