

About Receiving and Sharing

“Living Large”, part 24, Insights from Acts 17:10-34
Pastor Bob Johnson, February 18th, 2024

Insights from Berea: (Acts 17:10-15)

- Be _____ but not gullible
- Be _____ of certain strategies regarding: Bible, Miracles, and Morality
(Matthew 4:5-6, Exodus 7:8-11, 2 Corinthians 11:14-15)
- Be _____ to not filter Scripture thru ...
 - our _____ (1 Corinthians 4:4)
 - our _____ (Romans 12:1-2)
 - our _____ (1 Corinthians 3:3-7)

Insights from Athens: (Acts 17:16-34)

- Many consider themselves ...
- Many are drawn to the ...
- How one responds is more about their ... than our ...
(1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our fifth week of our 9 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Book of Acts.

Each week we will read and reflect on a passage and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Acts 17, the Bereans were described as teachable but not gullible. Speaking of being too quick to make a decision or conclusion, when have learned a lesson on not being too gullible or trusting?

On the other side, what have you learned that helps you to not be too cynical and untrusting?

In Acts 17:21, those in Athens are described as attracted to whatever is new. Speaking of being trendy, how would you rate yourself on being 'current' related to culture? What is something you have or do that might be considered 'trendy'?

Reviewing & Reflecting on Sunday's Passage:

From reflecting on Acts 17:10-34 this past Sunday, was there a particular thought or verse that stood out to you, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. In Acts 17:10-14, Paul was encouraged that these Berean believers were eager to learn but also careful to check out what was being taught ... even by Paul.

Being teachable and gullible leads to trouble! As shared on Sunday, it is wise to not put too much trust in a particular feeling, cultural opinion or even a favorite Bible teacher.

What are some helpful questions we can ask when certain impressions or ideas come our way from a variety of sources related to what we believe or the decisions we make?

2. In Acts 17:15-34, we learned that when it comes to sharing the gospel, Paul concluded that it is best keeping it simple and personal. In this passage, Paul's speech was well crafted and all true. Unfortunately, it seems that most were unmoved or more impressed with Paul than what he shared about Christ. As he moved on from Athens to Corinth, he shifted his focus away from eloquence and more onto the simple grace-filled story of Jesus.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 and summarize what Paul is saying in our own words.

Let's also read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22. Paul continued to be sensitive to who he was sharing with even as he kept the focus on who Jesus is and the grace that is available to all.

What are some insights you can think of that balances the two encouragements ... not being over eloquent or focused on culture, but also being sensitive to 'contextualize Christ' with who we share with?

3. When it comes to sharing our faith with others, how we live is just as important as the words we share. Let's read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13 and share what insights we see related to sharing both our words and our lives with others.

4. Last Sunday we heard that we don't need to be eloquent or have all the answers to share our faith. Rather, how we share about our faith with others has a lot to do with the kind of influence we have on others.

The Bible gives us some guidelines for the way we are to go about sharing and talking with others.

What can we learn about how to talk and interact with others from the following passages:

2 Timothy 2:23-26, Titus 3:1-2

The famous 'love chapter' found in 1 Corinthians 13 applies to many of our conversations with others about hot topics in general and specifically when we talk with others about our Christian faith.

Let's read verses 4-5 and replace the word 'love' with 'how I talk is'.

How accurate does this describe the way you talk when it comes to areas of disagreement or talking about your faith in Jesus?

How can we improve in being sensitive salt sprinklers?

Praying Together:

One of the blessings of being in a small group is being prayed for. Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?