

Week Beginning: 23rd July, 2017

Worship Series: #9 in series

THE
POWER IN
THE MOMENT

living sharing growing



lifegroups
live life abundantly

Theme Verse

"People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you."

Acts 17:22-23

Remember This Week

Live your life to become relevant

and you become both irreverent to Jesus and irrelevant to the watching world.

Live a life of reverence for Jesus

and you become relevant to the watching world.

That's the power of the Gospel unleashed in your life; a power that leaves a heavenly imprint and makes an eternal impact in this world in every moment.



**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.**

Psalms 111:10

Lord God of heaven and earth, Creator of our world, and everything in it, yet as close to us as our own breath—holy is Your name. In You we live and move and have our being; we are Your own children, the work of Your hands. Pour on us your Holy Spirit as we gather in your name. Open our eyes to Your presence, open our ears to Your Word, open our hearts to worship you alone, that the world may be led to glorify you. We ask this in Jesus name, Amen.



1. *Highs and lows for the week.*
2. *Accountability time. How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *If a statue was made of you, what pose would best represent who you are?*
4. *Viktor Frankl said, "When a person can't find a deep sense of meaning, they distract themselves with pleasure." Do you agree/disagree with this statement? Why?*
5. *What part of your faith in Jesus seems most relevant & meaningful now?*

'The Church is no longer relevant to the world.' It's a statement you often hear, backed up by Census results and other studies. Social researcher Mark McCrindle points out: "The community is now able to meet spiritual needs through yoga, through listening to uplifting music, attending a motivational seminar, reading a book. That's the breadth of input in the spiritual life of Australians outside church ... That's where Australians have moved to." So what would it look like for Christians to be relevant in the world, to unbelievers today? How do we connect with those who say they are deeply spiritual but not religious? The good news is that people are still 'spiritual' – they are still searching for meaning, significance and purpose in this world. Today as we explore the power of relevance, Paul shows us how to find those entry points in the culture so that we can point them to a God who alone can fulfil the deepest desires, the deepest longings of every human heart.

Read Acts 17:16-34





6. *What in the text struck you the most in hearing it?*
7. *In what ways is our culture in Australia similar to what we read about the Athenian culture? What are some of the "unknown gods" that people worship today?*
8. *What are some major cultural/social shifts that you have observed in your lifetime? How were you effected by them?*
9. *What does the Bible tell us about philosophies (1 Cor 1:18-24)? What does Paul remind us in this passage that we are to share with even the intellectuals?*
10. *Paul was well versed in the Athenian culture into which he shared the gospel. What do you know about SydneyAustralian culture that might give you an opening to witness to Jesus?*
11. *What six principles does Paul lay out to show the Athenians who the true God is?*
 - a. (v.24).
 - b. (v.25)
 - c. (v.26)
 - d. (v.27)
 - e. (v.29)
 - f. (v.30-31).
12. *Why are these principles so important to our lives and to those who do not know Christ?*
13. *What fears cause churches to step away from the culture & risk becoming irrelevant?*
14. *In what ways can LifeWay overcome fear & engage our culture well?*
15. *Paul shared with the Athenians the truth that the Almighty God was in fact Creator, Provider, King, Saviour, & Redeemer. Which of these facets of the Lord do you need to be reminded of today and why?*
16. *What does Paul say we should expect whenever we share the gospel? What can we do if some wish to hear more?*



The danger for Christians living in this country is that we develop a cultural Christianity that doesn't look any different to what the culture is saying. It is pursuing the God we want instead of the God who is; wanting God to be more like a gentle-grandfather type who spoils us and lets us have our own way. It is sensing a need for God, but on our own terms. The result of all of this is that Christianity is seen as irrelevant, having nothing to offer modern people who want the latest fad teaching, fad diet, fad philosophies, fad whatever.

17. *In what ways may you have unknowingly slipped into a cultural Christianity rather than living out of a reverence (worship) of the one true God? What might you need to change/adjust/let go of in your life this week to live out your identity in Jesus Christ? What practices in your life help you not become cultural Christians?*
18. *Mission happens when we physically go to where the people are. Paul doesn't set up a storefront in Athens and wait for the philosophers to come to him. Paul goes to them for he knows that mission is finding the embers of God's fire in the world and blowing on them. Where have you seen the ember of God's fire in your community/ workplace and how will you blow on them this week?*



- Praise God for creating you to live with him. Thank Jesus for showing us in a way we could understand who our Father in heaven is. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you find ways to speak Jesus into the lives of the people you assoicate with in a way that has meaning for them.
- Pray for a heart that loves people enough to go to them.
- Pray for an awareness to see the embers of God at work in your community and the willingness to blow on them with the good news of Jesus.



Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:
Name, may you leave the imprint of Jesus in this world. Amen.