

O1 Paul notices and proclaims

Athens is the setting of a real encounter.



He observes worship

The unknown-god altar becomes a starting point.

He reasons about Jesus

The good news and resurrection provoke questions.

He proclaims the God they do not know

Listening does not leave ignorance untouched.

Acts 17:16–23 · Teaching summary

02 Who gives life?

This word diagram traces a claim; it does not depict God.



The Creator

Made the world; gives life and breath

↓ gives and sustains ↓

Humanity

Every nationality shares origin and dependence

Human art and imagination do not give God existence. Creaturely origin does not mean everyone already has saving fellowship with Him.

Acts 17:24–29 · Teaching summary

03 The risen Judge calls for repentance



Paul's conclusion concerns every person.

God commands repentance

Turn from sin and false worship towards the living God.

He has appointed righteous judgement

The resurrection establishes Jesus' authority.

People respond differently

Some mock, some want to hear more and some believe.

Acts 17:30–34 · Teaching summary

04 Respectful listening; truthful challenge



Read both together in Paul's encounter.

He attends

Observes carefully.

Uses a familiar starting point.

Reasons with listeners.

He challenges

Proclaims the Creator.

Rejects making God.

Calls everyone to repent.

Humility acknowledges our own need of grace; it does not erase disagreement.

Acts 17:22–31 · Teaching summary

05 Listening without surrendering the question



Illustration choice A · Acts 17:16–34



Can we disagree clearly and still honour a person?

Two imagined teenagers are listening to one another. What would show that someone understood a claim fairly? Would that require agreeing with it?

06 Remember the whole verse

Listen, join in and explain its meaning.



Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things.

Acts 17:25, CSB

We receive life from the Creator. He needs nothing from us; we can serve Him with gratitude.

Does our service supply something God lacks?

Read the whole verse, then cover “life and breath and all things” and recall it together. Uncover it to check. Listening and supported participation are welcome.

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