

# 07 KNOWING GOD

**KEY TEXT: ACTS 17:16-18,22-31**

## CENTRAL truth

In this week's teaching, Paul engages with the people of Athens as he encounters idols throughout their city. Paul uses this as an opportunity to encourage his audience to turn from their idols and to worship the one true God as Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things. Paul's teaching reminds us that **God has made Himself known to us through Jesus.**

## key question

**What does Paul say is the proper response to God? What reason does he give?**

As creations made in God's image and likeness, we were created to worship Him and be in relationship with Him. God made Himself known to His creations through Jesus, and His command is for all people to respond by turning from their rebellion to follow Him. Jesus is the Judge to whom all people will be accountable to.

## keep in mind

- Paul's distress over the idols he found throughout Athens can also be understood as irritation or anger. For many students (and adults as well) anger has a negative connotation. However, Paul demonstrates a righteous anger—he is frustrated with the worship of false gods and desires for people to follow the one true God. Help students to understand what righteous anger is.
- Paul used what he knew about the Athenians to help them connect with his message. Paul's example challenges us to be familiar with and aware of the culture and beliefs of those with whom we are sharing the good news. This can serve as a helpful starting place as we lead others to discover what it means to follow Jesus.

## application

**What can we learn from Paul's method of sharing the good news with the Athenians?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students have the opportunity to grow in their understanding of what it means that God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things who has revealed Himself to us through Jesus.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Challenge students to ask the Lord to help them identify things within their communities and culture that don't honor Him, while being prayerful for opportunities to share the good news with others.