02-02-2025 Message



Mission Sunday
We are all missionaries.





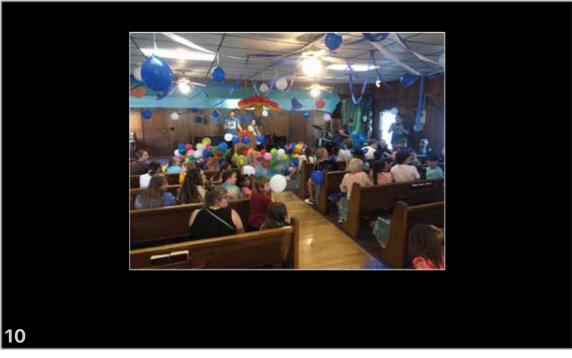














¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

²⁰Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

13

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) Last of 2

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

Acts 17:16-21 (ESV)

¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

Acts 17:16-21 (ESV)

15

Acts 17:16-21 (ESV) 2 of 4

¹⁹And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean."

Acts 17:16-21 (ESV)

²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Acts 17:16-21 (ESV)

Acts 17:16-21 (ESV) Last of 4

¹⁶His spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

Acts 17:16b (ESV)

Acts 17:16 (ESV)

⁴¹And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it.

Luke 19:41 (ESV)

19 Luke 19:41 (ESV)

The Epicureans were atheists; they denied God's existence and the afterlife. Their chief goal was the pursuit of pleasure, and their deepest desire was the avoidance of pain. Their motto was, "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

The Stoics were pantheists who believed everything was God and God was in everything. Their motto was, "Grin and bear it." Apathy was regarded as the highest virtue in life.

21

"

The human heart is an idol factory...
every one of us from our mother's
womb is an expert in inventing idols.

1. Find the positive in people.

23

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

Acts 17:22 (ESV)

24

Acts 17:22 (ESV)

We should never be surprised when non-Christians act like non-Christians.

25

FOUR WAYS BELIEVERS TYPICALLY RESPOND TO THE WORLD:

- Isolate
- Insulate
- Imitate
- Infiltrate

We must stop thinking "us vs. them" and move toward "us for them."

27

2. Connect to a need.

²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.'

Acts 17:23a (ESV)

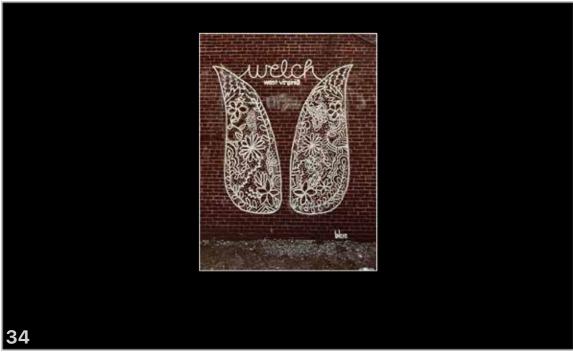
29 Acts 17:23 (ESV)













²³What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

Acts 17:23b (ESV)

36 Acts 17:23 (ESV)

²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Acts 17:24-27 (ESV)

37

Acts 17:24-27 (ESV) 1 of 2

²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, Acts 17:24-27 (ESV)

God is the creator of everything.

God is Lord of all.

God cannot be contained in a building.

God does not need anything from anyone.

God sustains His creation.

39

The entire human race can be traced to Adam.

God determines the time and place for every individual and every nation.

God put within us a desire to know Him.

- You didn't make God; He made you.
- He doesn't need you; you need Him.
- He's looking for you; even when you're not looking for Him.

²⁸for "In him we live and move and have our being";

as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."

Acts 17:28 (ESV)

42

Acts 17:28 (ESV)

4. Call for repentance.

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

44

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

Acts 17:30 (ESV)

45 Acts 17:30 (ESV)

¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

Acts 3:19 (ESV)

Acts 3:19 (ESV)

5. Point them to Jesus!

47

because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:31 (ESV)

48

Acts 17:31 (ESV)

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

49 Romans 6:23 (ESV)

6. Leave the results to God.

Some rejected. Others were reluctant. A few received.

51

- · Find the positive in people
- · Connect to a need.
- · Talk about God.
- Call for repentance.
- Point them to Jesus!
- Leave the results to God.

1. Repent and profess Christ.

53

⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

54

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

2. Look for opportunities to connect with non-Christians.

55

3. Encourage and support those who are connecting with non-Christians.

