



## Welcome + Opening Prayer

### Acts 17:1-4, 16-17, 22-34

*See passage printed on the back of this page.*

#### THEMATIC OVERVIEW

*How “the unknown God” is made known.*

## Explore + Apply

1. What do you think when you hear the word “religious”? What did you think Paul meant by it (v. 22)? In what ways might Seattle be a religious place? What musicians, writers, poets, podcast hosts, philanthropists, business owners, etc. point to “the unknown God” (v. 23) in our culture today? Why is it important to Paul and for us today to be good listeners in our culture?
2. How does v. 26 sit with you (where Paul describes everything about our lives as foreordained by God)? Are you offended? Comforted? Why? What are the plans or “versions of how life should go” that you put trust in — instead of God?
3. Why is there typically such an allergy to the resurrection, not just in Paul’s day (v. 31-32) but also today? How does the resurrection change our conversations from personal beliefs to what is real, true, and possible? Can you describe a time when the resurrection of Jesus was particularly difficult for you — what helped you?

## Pray

- Praise God that in the resurrection He has overcome the normal way of things — death.
- Pray for one another in your struggle to put your trust in God and not your own version of how life should go.
- Pray God’s Kingdom come as He makes “the unknown God” known through the love and hospitality of His Church: here in our city, the U.S., and the world.

#### PRAYER GUIDELINES

*In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace as we enjoy a unique time of fellowship with God made possible through Christ’s servant leadership.*

#### GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*week of Mar 18  
week of Apr 1  
week of Apr 15*

*Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.*

## **Acts 17:1-4, 16-17, 22-34**

<sup>1</sup> Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." <sup>4</sup> And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So 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.

<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And 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, <sup>27</sup> that 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, <sup>28</sup> for

"'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.'

<sup>29</sup> Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> 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."

<sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." <sup>33</sup> So Paul went out from their midst. <sup>34</sup> But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.