# The Leading of the Spirit 17. Inspired to speak their language Acts 17:16-34

# How do you talk to people about your faith?

### Do you always start with the Bible?

## Paul’s example

### He engaged with those that did accept the Bible

#### He went to the synagogue and argued for Jesus and the resurrection there

#### He went to those who accepted Judaism, the God-fearing Greeks, and argued for Him with them

### He was greatly distressed by all the idols in the city

#### It’s a shame all that devotion, love and sacrifice had the wrong focus

### He engaged with those who did NOT accept the Bible

#### Their initial answer was a warning to Paul

# There’s Good News for philosophers

## There is a personal creator

## Human beings have dignity

## There is hope

## People do have a place and a path to follow

## Judgement will come

### Through a resurrected Christ

## Repentance is needed

### You cannot find this at the end of your rainbow!

# Evangelism in the real world

## Starts where they are

## Speaks of their unknown

## Speaks of the God you know

### A God who doesn’t leave things to chance

### A God who oversees the world and the placing of people on the earth

### A God who offers choice and free will

# God allows people free thought

## He is not the inflator or deflator of egos, He is the Creator God that we should seek to find our true selves and our true value

# God wants you to seek Him

## He ordered your world so that you would seek Him

### If there were too much blessing you would have said ‘it was good fortune/luck’

### If there were too bad things you would have said ‘God is distant and remote and doesn’t care’

# God wants you to reach out to Him

## It’s tough being you

### But with God’s help you can rise to glory

# God wants you to find Him

## He wants you to discover the joy of being in His presence and feeling clean and loved and wanted and needed and special

# God loves people

## He wants your friends and family to find Him too

### Christ is the way

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Talking about your faith

## When was the last time you talked to someone about your faith?

### How did it go?

# Attitudes to people

## In what ways is it helpful to view people positively in discussing contentious issues?

### How does the conversation change when you think of someone as hostile or an adversary?

# Evangelism starting points

## Paul uses the philosophers’ unknown areas as the starting point of the good news

### Using this, where would you start your witness with an enquirer who:

#### Is from a different (religious) background?

#### Is from a scientific background?

#### Is from a non-spiritual background?

#### Talks to you about bringing up children?

#### Talks to you about climbing the work ladder?

## In the only other debate with an entirely non-believer crowd Paul & Barnabas are mistaken for old gods: Hermes and Zeus (Acts 14:8-18)

### How do these stories together inform us about how we present the good news and what we can expect when we do?

# What God is like

## How can we demonstrate that God allows free will when we talk to people?

## How can we communicate that God wants them to seek Him, to reach out to Him and to find him?

## How can we show that God loves people?