

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 263: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD**  
**ACTS 17:16-34**

While Paul was waiting for Silas and Timothy in Athens Greece, he was upset because he saw that the city was full of idols. In the synagogue he talked with the Jews and with the Greeks who were worshipers of the true God. He also went to the public square every day and talked with everyone who came by. Some of the Epicurean and some of the Stoic philosophers argued with him. Some of them said, "This man doesn't really know what he is talking about. What is he trying to say?" Paul was telling them the Good News about Jesus and the resurrection. So they said, "He seems to be telling us about some other gods." They took Paul to a meeting of the Areopagus (Air-ee-OP-a-gus) council. They said, "Please explain to us this new idea that you have been teaching. The things you are saying are new to us. We have never heard this teaching before, and we want to know what it means." (The people of Athens and the foreigners who lived there spent all their time either telling or listening to all the latest ideas.) Then Paul stood up before the meeting of the Areopagus council and said, "Men of Athens, everything I see here tells me you are very religious. As I passed by and saw everything you worship, I found an altar with the inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Since you don't know who you are worshipping, I will tell you about Him. He is the God who made the whole world and everything in it. He is the Lord of the land and the sky. He does not live in temples built by human hands. He is the one who gives people life, breath, and everything else they need. He does not need any help from them. He has everything he needs. God began by making one man, and from him he made all the different people who live everywhere in the world. He decided exactly when and where they would live. "God wanted people to look for him, and perhaps in searching all around for him, they would find him. But he is not far from any of us. It is through him that we are able to live, to do what we do, and to be who we are. As your own poets have said, 'We all come from him.' "That's right. We all come from God. So you must not think that he is like something people imagine or make. He is not made of gold, silver, or stone. In the past people did not understand God, and he overlooked this. But now he is telling everyone in the world to change and turn to him. He has decided on a day when he will judge all the people in the world in a way that is fair. To do this he will use a man he chose long ago. And he has proved to everyone that this is the man to do it. He

proved it by raising him from death!" When the people heard about Jesus being raised from death, some of them laughed. But others said, "We will hear more about this from you later." So Paul left the council meeting. But some of the people joined with Paul and became believers. Among these were Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus council, a woman named Damaris, and some others.

# TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

(ACTS 17:16-34)



"Paul explains, ' God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands"

Acts 17:24

## 263. TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

### ACTS 17:16-34

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*“...God, .....He does not dwell in temples made with hands.”*     **ACTS 17:24**

#### **Review Questions**

##### **True or False**

1. While Paul was waiting in Athens, He was upset because the city had a lot of churches.
2. Paul started telling people the good news of Jesus. He told everyone who would listen.
3. Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I can tell you are very religious.”
4. As Paul walked around he saw an altar with the inscription: TO THE ONE TRUE GOD – JESUS CHRIST.
5. Paul told the people about who the “Unknown God” was that they were worshipping – that He was the LORD God of all the universe.

#### **Questions**

1. When Paul was in Athens, what was it that made him so upset about Athens?
2. Did the people in Athens, and all the people who visited there want to learn about all the newest ideas?
3. What did Paul tell all the people who would listen?
4. When Paul talked in the Aeropagus to the people, what did he tell them that he knew about them?
5. When Paul walked around Athens, what kind of altar did he see?
6. Who did Paul say was the “Unknown God” that the people of Athens had made an altar to?
7. Did everyone believe in Jesus after they heard Paul?

## Lesson 263 Craft/Activity

### Blind Man's Bluff

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

- 1 blindfold for every other student (if you have 10 children, you will need 5 blindfolds)
- Enough objects for every other student (you can bring one object for each child so that way the other child can be blindfolded and try guessing an object too!)

Have the children in your class form pairs. Blindfold one of the children in each pair and have the other hand him simple objects (try and make them tricky). Let him try and guess what the object is by feeling it, but not seeing it. The child without the blindfold may not give any hints.

After a few guesses allow the blindfolded student to remove his blindfold and see what he was feeling. Ask him to tell what it was like to hold something but not be able to tell what it was. Ask if it would have been helpful to be given some hints.

Explain to the class that when we know the truth about the Lord and salvation through Jesus, we can help those who are “wearing blindfolds”. [Believers of the truth will share it with those who are deceived.](#)

### Sharing the Faith

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

- 1 empty 2-liter bottle with lid
- Water (1 liter)
- Food coloring (a few drops)
- ½ Cup cooking oil
- 2 teaspoons of dish soap
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Fill an empty 2-liter bottle about half way with water. Add some food coloring and shake it so it's mixed well (be sure you have the cap). Tell your class that this represents the world. Pour about a half-cup of oil in the bottle. Tell your class that this represents Christians. The children will see that they do not mix. It is only when the non-believer becomes a Christian can we then be unified. It is the Holy Spirit who draws man to God.

Add about two teaspoons of dish soap (representing the Holy Spirit) and show your class how the whole mixture becomes one.

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to learn the truth and share it. If time allows, take prayer requests for others that the children know who need to hear about Jesus. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.