

**SERIES - BREAKTHROUGH****Week 3 - Breakthrough in Places****BIG IDEA**

The Spirit brings breakthrough in specific places in specific ways.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:16-34

DISCUSSION

1. The first two questions are a way to get to know one another as a group, but also begin to help people think about the places in their lives that God has called them to serve.
2. A few points that might help with the passage in case you get stuck as you read Acts 17. A) Paul doesn't go to the Jewish synagogue when he comes to Athens as he does in most of his stops in his missionary journeys, so he is interacting with people with little understanding of the Hebrew Bible, and its tradition. B) Since Paul is speaking to philosophers, he engages them in a way that is familiar to them. Notice his speech in verse 24. He is unpacking a philosophical understanding of God, history, ethics, and God's ownership of everything. C) The Athenians lived with a worldview that assumed there were many gods with limited jurisdiction who impacted the lives of humans and therefore wanted to make sure they worshipped gods they may not know about. Paul uses that as an opening to talk about the God of the universe. D) Paul also quotes one of their poets in verse 28. E) Some of them sneer at Paul's announcement of resurrection. Typically Greeks believed the body was something to be escaped. For them, the soul was like a butterfly trapped in a tin can, and the goal is for the soul to leave the body in some way experience a disembodied eternal existence. Paul's proclamation calls all of that into question. He was effectively saying: the body is good, and God made it and wants to redeem it.
3. By looking at Paul's example in Athens, it helps us see that God has called us to pay attention to the world around us and think hard about how we can effectively engage it with the good news of Jesus.
4. Help the group think through the places in their lives. Expect that some in your group haven't thought that much about the four P's, while others may be very well tuned into these realities. It's OK for the group to be at different points on the journey from one another. Try to encourage everyone to take the next step that is appropriate for them.
5. If some members of your group haven't yet seen the Breakthrough vision video from week 1, you can always go on the website at communitychristian.org/media or the app to see the places COMMUNITY wants to reach through the generosity portion of Breakthrough.