

# Growth Group Discussion Guide

## Week of April 29

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### Magnanimous Fools

**Our Scripture: Acts 17:16-34**

#### Ice Breaker

Our scripture takes us to Athens, Greece. Tell about any countries you may have visited near the Mediterranean sea.

#### Quick review

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

#### Digging Deeper

1. After being released from the Philippian jail Paul and Silas proceed to Thessalonica. There they encountered stiff resistance and proceeded to Berea. Though they were well received in Berea, the Thessalonian Jews followed them in order to incite the crowds against them. (Acts 17:1-14)

Read Acts 17:14-15. What happened next?

2. What do we learn about Paul in Acts 17:16?

3. Read Acts 17:17. Where did Paul begin to engage the people of Athens?

4. Where does Acts 17:19 tell us they brought Paul to explain himself?

5. Greg said; "Acts 17:22-31 is the longest recorded teaching of Paul in the New Testament." Divide up in groups and focus on the following sections. Identify the main point in each of these sections and then share them with the group:

22-28:

29:

30-31:

## Media Mix - Richard Rohr and The Cosmic Christ

Here is the short video we watched during the sermon: 1 minute 38 second

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0XXCBv6Z6s>

The longer vignette in worship is from this 12 minute clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FGObtu-EMI>

Which of these are your reaction?

1. This guy is a heretic, a nutcase or worse.
2. I don't understand.
3. I want to hear more.
4. Wow, I'd never thought about our faith in this way.
5. He is putting into words things I already believe.

Sign up for Father's Richard's Daily Meditations at: [cac.org](http://cac.org)

## Bringing It Home

1. Paul was deeply distressed as he spoke amidst the idols that guided the lives of Greeks of Athens. As you ponder people's lives today brainstorm a list of the conditions that most cause you distress.

2. Four insights describe Paul's sharing our faith with others;

- Be open-minded.
- Listen and learn from those different than you.
- Realize that the Holy Spirit precedes you in the lives of those you meet.
- Exude the love of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

As a group describe what each of these bullet points mean.

3. Tell about a relationship you have with a person who self identifies as agnostic or an atheist. Which of the bullet points in question #2 contribute to your friendship? How?

## **Prayer Time**

Who would you like to pray for you in your circle of relationships whose lifestyle disturbs or concerns you? After conversation use this phrase to guide your prayer petitions;

God, I look with you at \_\_\_\_\_ and ask that \_\_\_\_\_. Amen

## **Housekeeping**

1. Who is bringing treats next week?
2. How will you serve together during this spring cycle? Can you identify a "GWOH Month" opportunity to serve together?