

Series: Centrifugal Faith

Scripture and Background Information for October November 22-28.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

In Acts, Luke tells us how the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ motivated believers to proclaim the good news about Christ, first to their neighbors, then to other cities, and finally to the end of the world. The picture of the centrifugal power of the resurrection accompanies Luke's whole account. He shows how believers did not shrink back from their mission, even in trial or death.

Background for Acts 17:16-34:

Since Paul faced opposition, he was escorted out of the city and accompanied until Athens. Observing Athens, he realized the idols, which motivated him to continue his mission. Paul reasoned with Jews and believing Gentiles, which inspired the Athenians to hear from Paul. Paul starts his presentation to the believers by connecting their questions to their culture. He proclaims the God they don't know. From there, he starts telling them about the creator God, who made himself knowable. Paul continues to show how and why God made himself known. He wants to save people since there will be a day of judgment. God brought His Son, who died, but who was also resurrected. Christ resurrected, Paul says, assures all that He is God's appointed to save all who believe. Some reacted angrily against Paul. The centrifugal power of the resurrection caught others for their salvation.

Some tools to engage with the text:

1. At which days of the week and where did Paul be a witness of Christ? What does that tell us about our task as witnesses of Christ? (Acts 1:8)
2. Although Paul did not change his message, but how did he contextualize it? What does it tell us about our cultural engagement?
3. What are the core elements Paul included in his presentation of the gospel?
4. How did the people react toward Paul? How did their reaction change Paul's mission?

Notice: Paul was motivated to continue his mission since he saw their lostness. How does the lostness of people around you motivate you?

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

November 29-December 05
December 06-12

Acts 28
Deuteronomy 18:15-19