

The Unknown God

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Part 1. In the "Unreached" Series of Matthew Rogers
Matthew Rogers Preaching
11-11-26*

Opening Prayer

- Thank God for the privilege of knowing Him and for the opportunity to learn more about sharing Jesus with those who have never heard.
- Ask for open hearts as we discuss what it means to help others know the God who is still unknown to so many.

Ice Breaker

If you could visit any place in the world where people have never heard about Jesus, where would you go and why?

Key Scripture

Acts 17:22-23 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said, "People of Athens! I see that you are extremely religious in every respect. For as I was passing through and observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed, 'To an Unknown God.' Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you."

Sermon Summary

Paul walks into Athens and finds a city full of idols, including an altar to an "Unknown God." From this moment in Acts 17, three truths about unreached people emerge: everyone worships something, you can't choose a God you don't know, and everyone deserves the opportunity to respond. The sermon connects this to the billions of people today who still have no access to the message of Jesus.

Discussion Point 1: Everyone Worships Something

Scripture: Acts 17:16 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed when he saw that the city was full of idols.

Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

Point Summary:

The people of Athens were extremely religious. Their streets were lined with idols and altars. Paul was deeply distressed because their worship showed a hunger for God mixed with spiritual emptiness. The sermon notes that everyone worships something—whether success, money, comfort, career, or relationships—and that modern idols still make promises they cannot keep.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the common things people in our culture tend to build their lives and meaning around?
2. How does noticing what people around us are “worshipping” help us better understand them?

Discussion Point 2: You Can’t Choose a God You Don’t Know

Scripture: Acts 17:24-27 (CSB) – Ask a group member to read aloud.

The God who made the world and everything in it—he is Lord of heaven and earth—does not live in shrines made by hands. Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live. He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

Point Summary:

Paul does not simply tell the Athenians they are worshiping the wrong things. He proclaims the God they do not yet know—the Creator who gives life, sustains life, and is not far from each one of us. The sermon emphasizes that people cannot choose a God they have never heard about, which is the heart of what it means for a people group to be unreached.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important that Paul started by telling the Athenians who God is rather than only pointing out their idols?
2. What does it mean practically that someone cannot respond to Jesus if they have never had a meaningful opportunity to hear about Him?

Discussion Point 3: Everyone Deserves the Opportunity to Respond

Scripture: Acts 17:30-34 (CSB) – Ask a group member to read aloud.

“Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has set a day when he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” When they heard

about the resurrection of the dead, some began to ridicule him, but others said, “We’d like to hear from you again about this.” So Paul left their presence. However, some people joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Point Summary:

After Paul shares about Jesus and the resurrection, the responses vary—some ridicule, some want to hear more later, and some believe. Paul does not control the response; his responsibility is to make a response possible. The sermon reminds us that the same is true for unreached people today: they cannot respond to a Jesus they have never heard about.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does seeing the mixed responses in Athens encourage us when we share Jesus with others?
2. What is one practical way we can help make it possible for someone who has never heard about Jesus to have that opportunity?

Wrap-Up

Paul’s encounter in Athens shows us three clear truths: everyone worships something, people cannot choose a God they do not know, and everyone deserves the chance to respond. The key verse reminds us that Paul simply proclaimed the God who was still unknown to them. That same opportunity is still needed by billions of people today.

Challenge

Take one concrete step this week related to the unreached:

- Pray for an unreached people group or for missionaries,
- Engage by learning more through FCC’s Missions Team or the upcoming Missions display, or
- Explore the “Road to Reaching the Unreached” opportunities, including the Station to Station event.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He is no longer unknown to us and that He has made a way for us to know Him through Jesus.
- Ask Him to help us take a next step—whether praying, engaging, or going—so that others can hear about Him too.
- Pray for the missionaries and unreached people groups connected to FCC.

Handout

Life Group Handout: The Unknown God

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Write down one thing people around you (or even you) tend to look to for significance or security:

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2. Circle the truth that stood out most to you today:

- Everyone worships something
- You can't choose a God you don't know
- Everyone deserves the opportunity to respond

3. One person or people group I can begin praying for this week:

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4. My next step (check one):

- ☐ Pray with others for FCC's mission partners
- ☐ Engage with the FCC Missions Team or foyer display
- ☐ Learn more about "Go" opportunities / Station to Station event
- ☐ Something else: _____

5. One practical way I can help someone hear about Jesus this month:
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Sources used for these notes:

1. The full sermon manuscript/text provided in the user request ("THE UNKNOWN GOD" from First Christian Church, Warsaw, IN).
2. Christian Standard Bible (CSB) text of Acts 17:16, 17:22-23, 17:24-27, and 17:30-34 (sourced via publicly available CSB readings for accurate quotation matching the sermon's wording).