



Baptism Weekend | 06.12-13.2021

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: Today we live in a world with fewer people claiming a true 'religion' but we have made religions out of political and social acceptance. We have paid lip service to the God of the Bible but the act of repentance that Paul highlights in Athens is still relevant today and the step of baptism is an amazing way to demonstrate our new life and commitment in Him.

» Opening (2-3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
 - **Remember there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

» Introduction (12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: Describe your first real dating experience (somewhat censored!).
- Digging Deeper: What are some differences between those first relationships and a more mature and long-lasting relationship?

» Observation | Read Acts 17:16-34 (12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | **Don't settle for religion when relationship is available.** (12 minutes)

- Spend a few minutes sharing your story about when you first started following Jesus. Our stories matter and carry more power than we may realize. We all have a story about what God has done or is doing in our lives right now. Share your story!

» Relating to the Religious | Reread Acts 17:16-21 (12 minutes)

- Paul was amazing at sharing the right information at the right time with people; how do you discern what to say to someone in your life about faith? Can you think of an example where it went well or went poorly?

» Known by the Unknown | Reread Acts 17:22-28 (12 minutes)

- Paul challenges the men of Athens to have a higher view of God than anything or anyone else. Is there something or someone in your life that has grown too big in your heart?

» Judging the Judges | Reread Acts 17:29-34 (12 minutes)

- Paul is at Mars Hill in Athens and shares the basics of the Gospel and his story with God. How would you share the basics of the Gospel and the short version of your story with others?

» Next Steps and Prayer | (15 minutes)

- How can your relationship with God become more important in your schedule this week?
- Close by praying for one another, asking God to reveal opportunities to be in a relationship, not just a religion.