

## Week 22 – Questions to Consider

### Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is the most embarrassing (but appropriate to share) thing you have ever done?

Acts 17 ~ Acts 18 ~ Acts 19 ~ Acts 20 ~ Acts 21

1. How does Paul “reason with people” (Acts 17:2) to try and persuade them to place their faith in Jesus? How is this a helpful example and reminder to us? How did people respond (Act 17:4-9)? How do people respond to our Gospel sharing attempts today?
2. Are we known as people “who turned the world upside down”? (Acts 17:6) Should we be? Why would the early disciples be described this way? How should the world see and hear our message as “upside down”?
3. Read Acts 17:11. What were the Bereans doing right? How can we imitate their example better in our own lives?
4. Paul was provoked by the many idols in Athens (Acts 17:16) and then finds an opportunity to lovingly but clearly share the Gospel. What are some of the idols of our society today? Are we rightly provoked? How can we bridge from our cultural idols into a better, loving, and clear Gospel witness?
5. Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months (Acts 18:11) and Ephesus for three years (Acts 20:31). What are the challenges to living in the same place for a long time? What are the joys and opportunities that come with that sort of longevity?
6. What does it look like to declare “the whole counsel of God” in our marriages, homes, workplaces, and church? (Acts 20:27)
7. What is the purpose of work? Is there a good work ethic in our society today? Why do you think that is? What do Paul and Jesus tell us about the purpose of work in Acts 20:35?
8. What is helpful to you in Acts 21 from Paul’s example of endurance and suffering? To learn about God? Yourself?

More questions at: [www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions](http://www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions)

## How to Spend Your Time Lessons from Berea & Athens for Americans Today *Telling & Hearing Something Old*

Acts 17

### How to Avoid the Error of Athens... & America

Acts 17:21 “Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.” (ESV)

#### 1. Watch Who You Surround Yourself With

#### 2. Acknowledge the Sinful Surroundings Where You Live

Exodus 32:6 “And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”

#### 3. Evaluate How You Spend Your Time

1 Corinthians 10:7 “Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.’”

#### 4. Care About What Enters Your Ears and Eyes

#### 5. Compare Your Words with The Word

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.”

## See the O\_\_\_\_\_ of Athens....and America

Acts 17:22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.”

### Speak the Good News (Gospel)

Acts 17:23 “For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.”

### The Gospel =

God Created.

Man Sins.

Jesus Dies.

We Trust.

~ **Admit.** I am a sinner.

~ **Believe.** Jesus is who He said He is.

~ **Confess.** Jesus as Lord & Savior.

### Some will mock...some will be interested...

#### some will believe! Pray & Share!

Acts 17:32–34 “Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” [33] So Paul went out from their midst. [34] But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.”

## I\_\_\_\_\_ the Bereans

### 1. Eagerly Hearing the Bible Truths

### 2. Testing What They Hear through the Bible

### 3. Believing and Obeying the Scriptures

Acts 17:11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

### Keep Trying to P\_\_\_\_\_ People to Jesus

Acts 18:4 “And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.”

Acts 18:5 “When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.”

Acts 18:9–10 “And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.’”

### This Next Week’s New Testament Reading Plan:

Week 23: Acts 22 ~ Acts 23 ~ Acts 24 ~ Acts 25 ~ Acts 26

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** [www.southfork.church/jesus](http://www.southfork.church/jesus)
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** [remind.com/join/sfbcdevo](http://remind.com/join/sfbcdevo)
- **Our Plan:** [www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan](http://www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan)

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## **Imitate the Bereans**

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