



May 16, 2010 Message

Reason for Hope: Other Religions (Acts 17)

READ

Read Acts 17:22-31, noting verse 27 especially. What questions does this verse raise for you?

REFLECT

- In what ways do you think all religions are the same? In what ways do you think they're different?
- When you think about people of other religions and their relationship with God, what questions come up for you?
- Getting beyond merely "churchy" answers, what makes Christianity compelling to you? Or, what keeps Christianity from being compelling to you?
- E. Stanley Jones wrote, "Religion is humanity's way to God. Jesus is God's way to humanity." What does that quote stir up in you?
- Do you think it's possible for Jesus to meet someone in the context of another religion? Why or why not?
- Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one gets to the Father except through me." What does that statement mean to you? What questions does it raise for you?

LIVE

If you have any relationships with people of other religions, set up a time to meet with them simply to learn about their relationship with God. Make sure they know that your only agenda is to learn; not to debate, teach, or evangelize. Ask them about what practices, experiences, traditions, and relationships help them. Ask them what questions they have about their own faith and how they experience God.

This year, our CPC community is focusing on knowing Jesus through the writings of Luke. We've developed this devotional tool to help you or your small group take the message beyond the weekend and into life. We offer three sections to help you engage with the text:

1. Read. Be still and read the text. Listen for words and phrases that you resist and words that reassure you.

2. Reflect. Let these questions and suggestions guide you as you engage with the reading a second time.

3. Live. We believe that God primarily uses relationships, experiences, and spiritual practices in our lives to make us more like Jesus. Here we offer suggestions for you to apply what you've read in this passage.