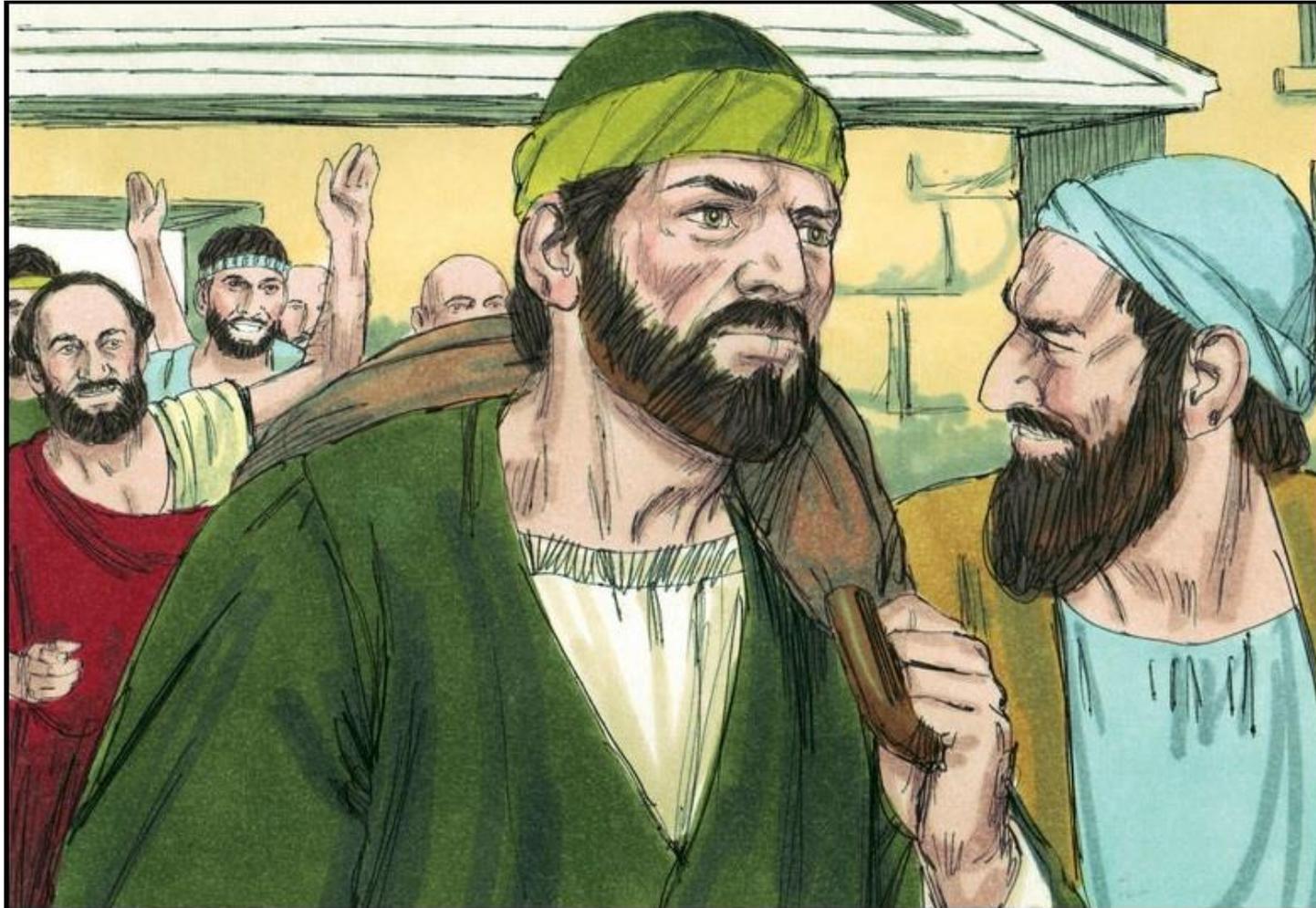


Acts 17

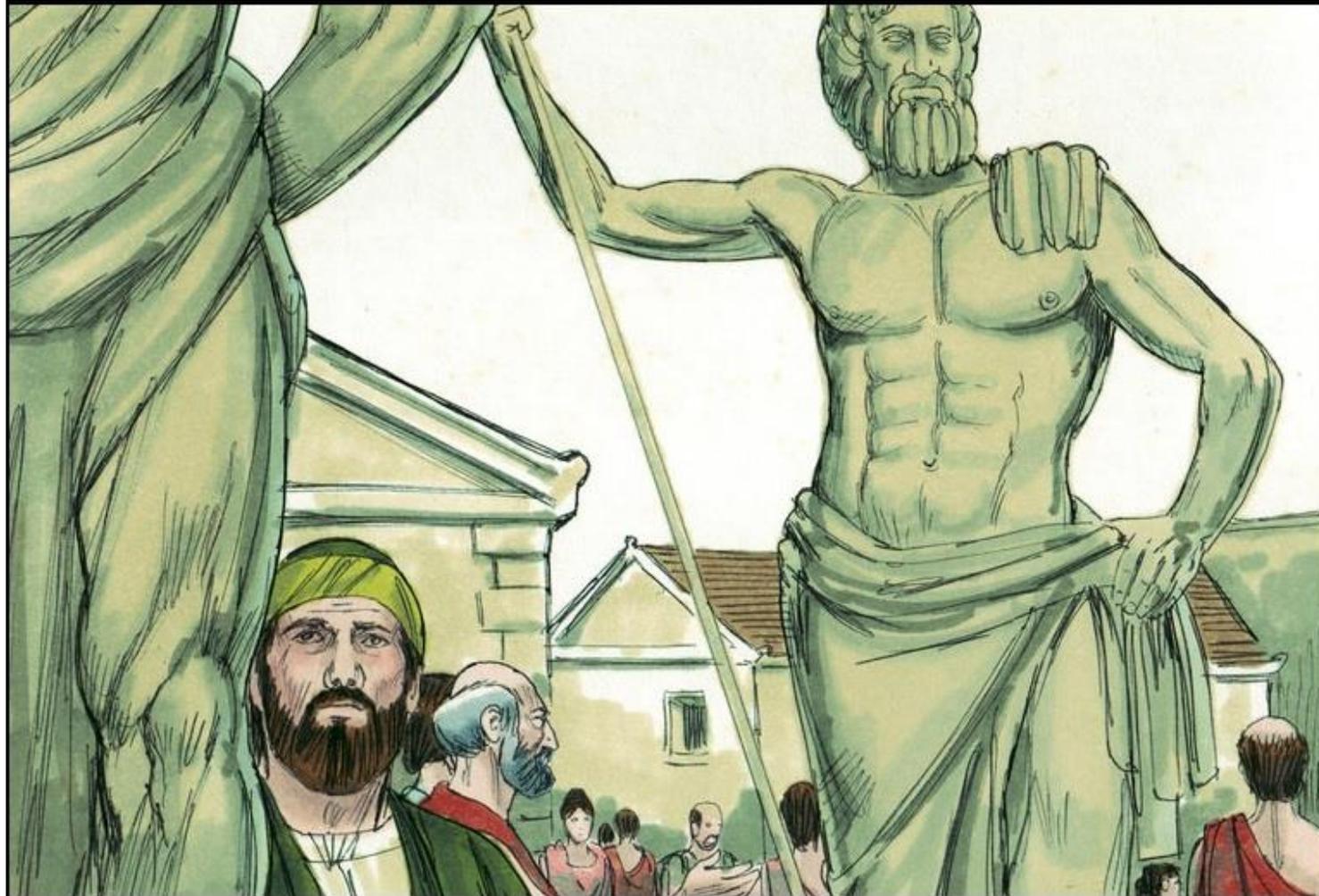
PROCLAIMING THE UNKNOWN GOD



Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed. (17:14-15)

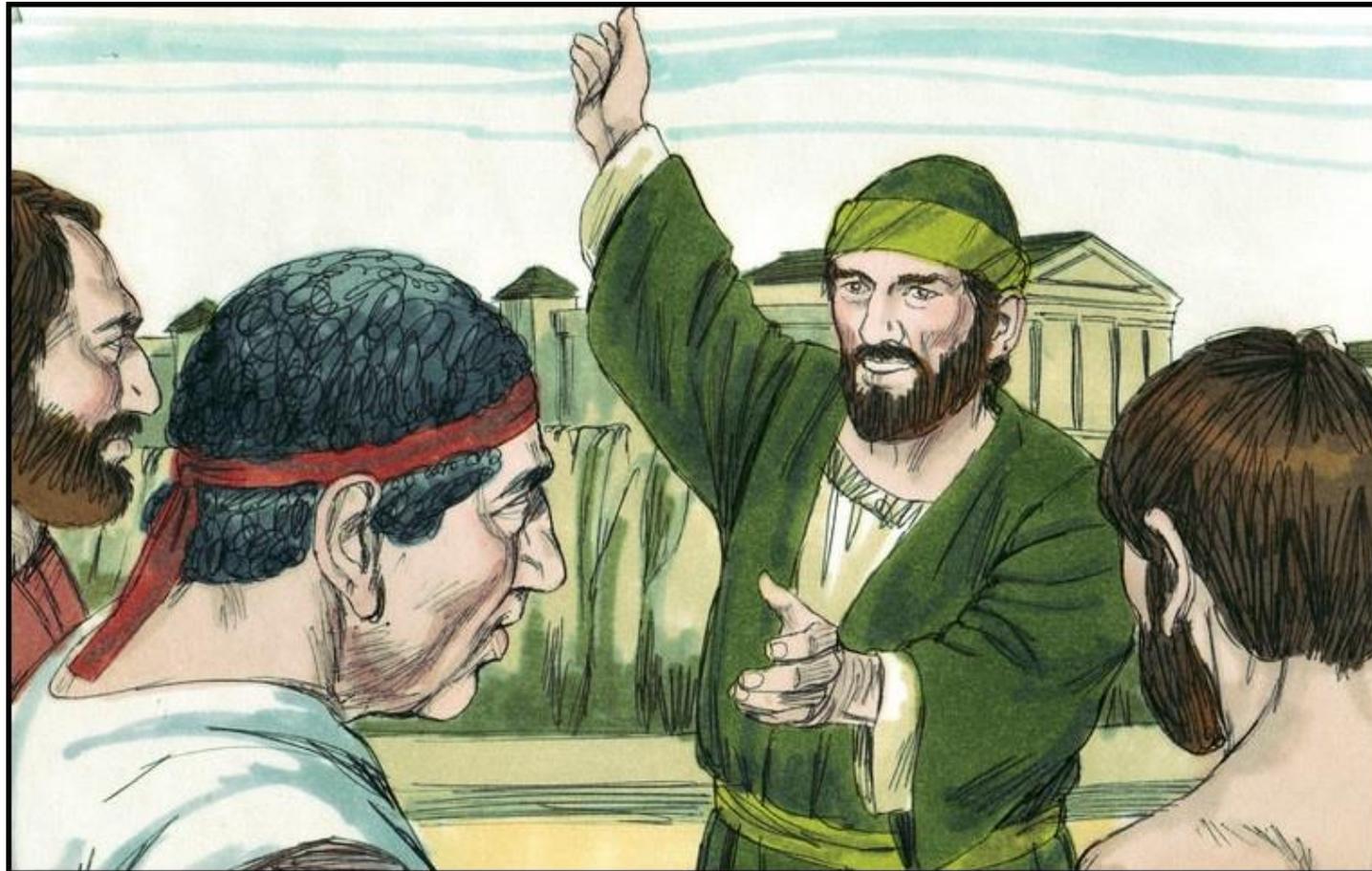


Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. (17:16-17)



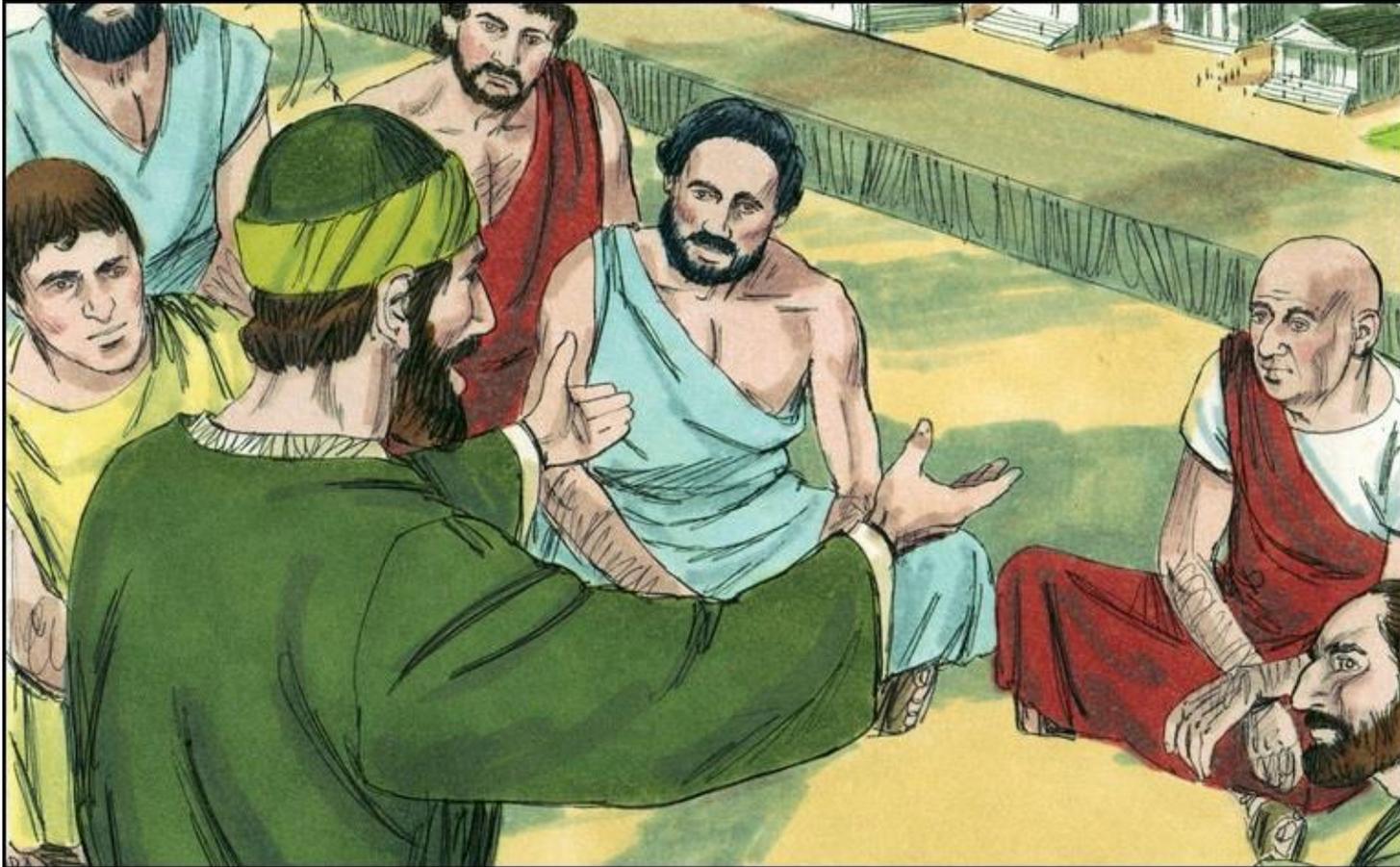
Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. (Acts 17:18-21)

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 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. (17:22-23)

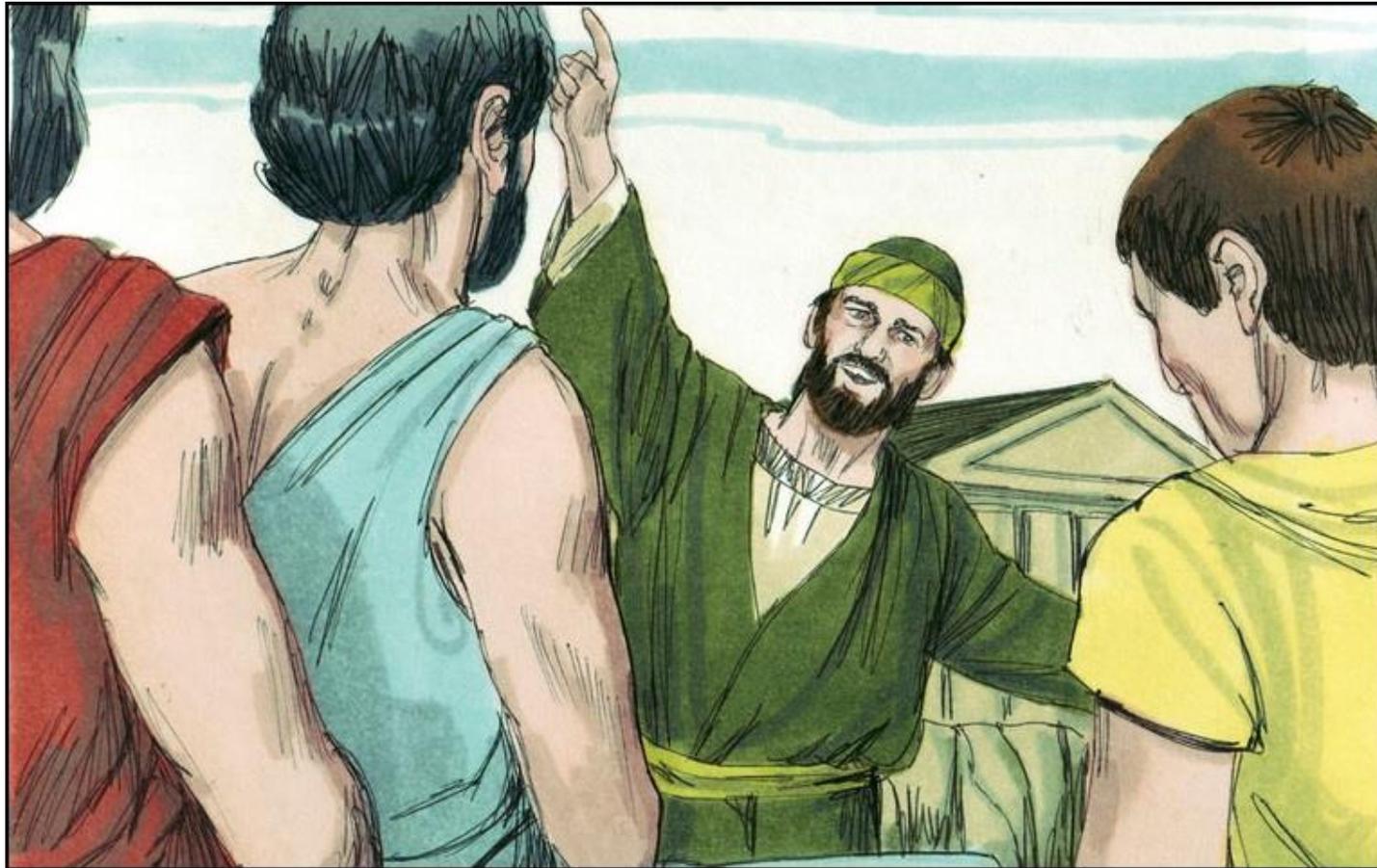


The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us
(Acts 17:24-27)

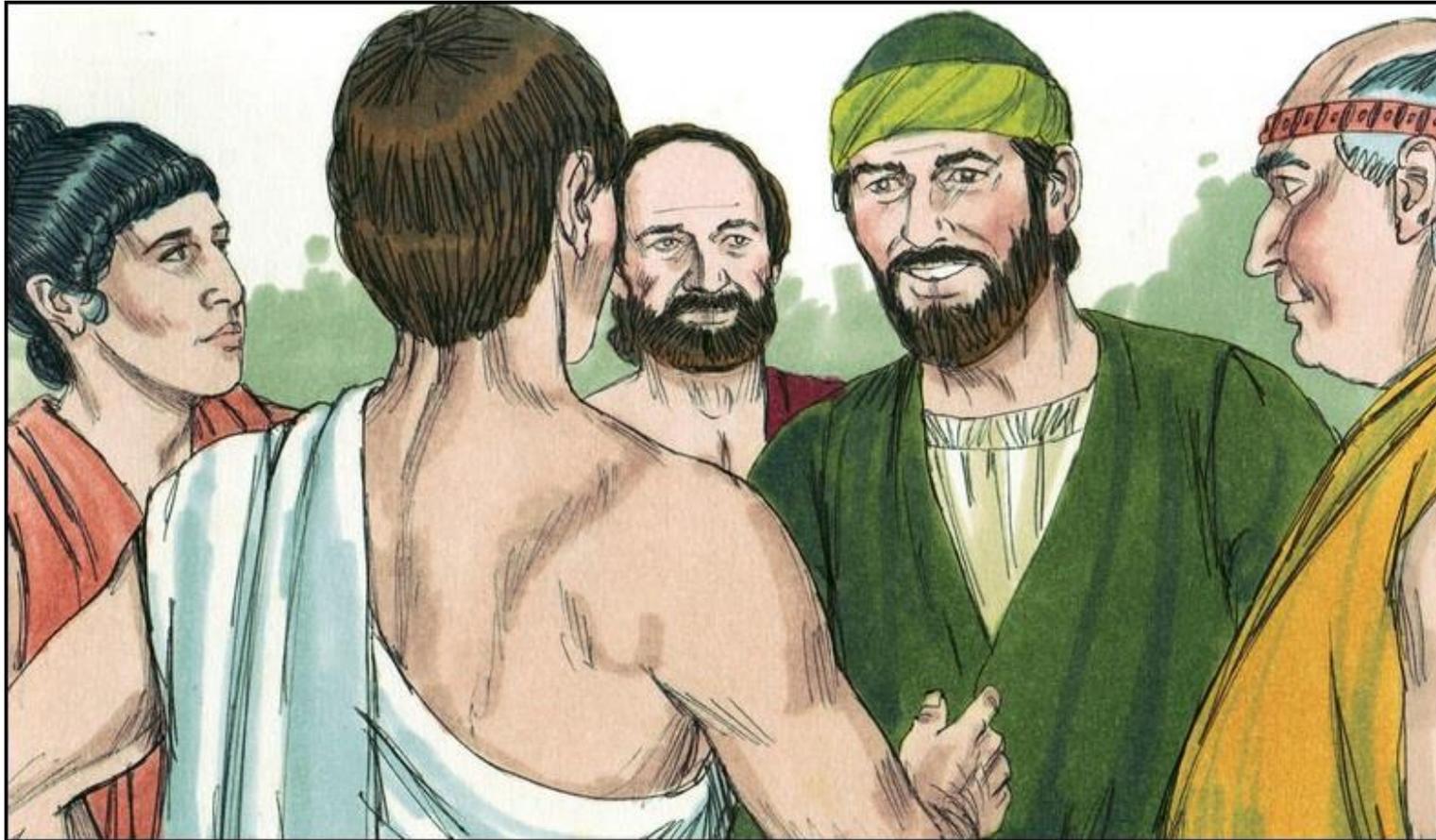
For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. (17:28-29)



The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” (17:30-31)



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



This account is very important for many reasons. But today we want to cover
Seven Lessons for Evangelism:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

**“...the brothers immediately sent Paul off
on his way to the sea...as far as Athens.”**

(17:14)



Reaching those who do not know God will
require us to go out among them. (17:14)



PRACTICAL ACTION



1 We must schedule time with unbelievers outside of the church and outside of church events/meetings.

2 Seek to meet unbelievers on their turf. Join them in what they are already doing!

“...after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.” (17:15)

2

Reaching those who do not know God is done
best with a partner. (17:15)



PRACTICAL ACTION



1 Begin to think of someone who could join you.
Pray that God would provide a partner to help you.

2 Seek someone who **overlaps** in the same sphere of influence.
Seek someone whose personality/interests **match** your friend.

“Now while Paul was waiting for them...he saw that the city was full of idols.” (17:16)

3

“I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’” (17:22)

3

Reaching those who do not know God will require us to identify their objects of worship.

(17:16, 22)



PRACTICAL ACTION



**Take note of the things that they talk about most.
Take note of the things they surround themselves with.**



**Take note of how they talk about religion, God, church.
Ask probing questions: 'Would you rather...'
Follow them on Facebook.**

“So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.” (17:17)

4

Reaching those who do not know God will require us going to their places of work, leisure, worship and hobby. (17:17)



PRACTICAL ACTION



1 Familiarize yourself with their daily routine.
Discover their hobbies and interests.
Go often to their place of work & home.

2 Ask them about their interests, hobbies, likes, dislikes.
Study up on their interests.
Invite them to join you, or ask to join them on an outing.

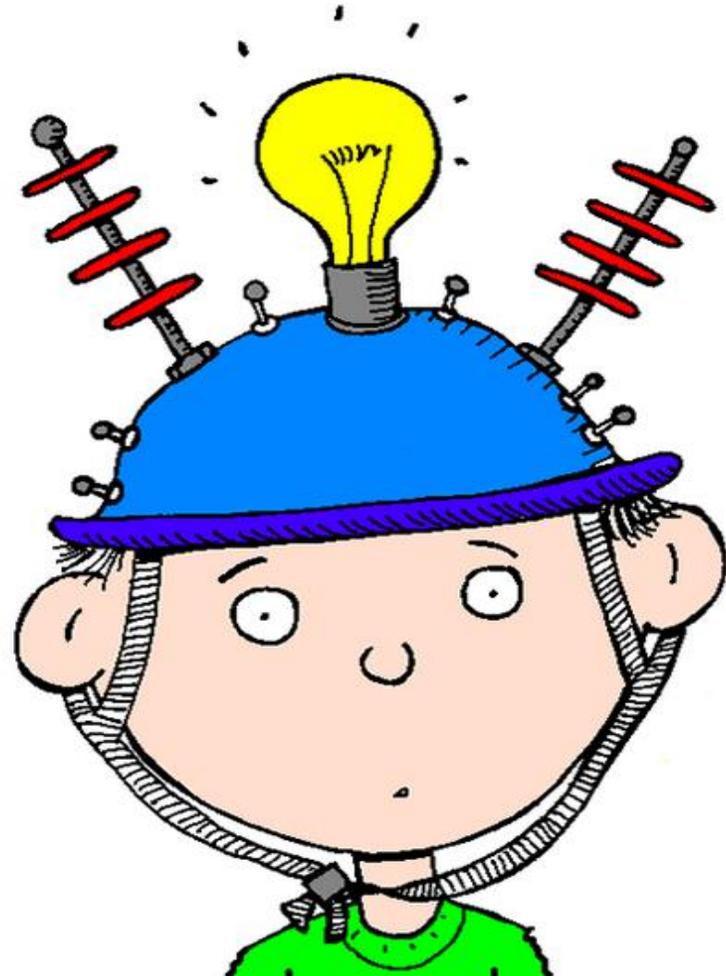
“I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ (17:22-23)

5

**“...some of your own poets have said,
“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’
(17:28)**

5

Reaching those who do not know God will require us being aware of their worldview, philosophy of life & using it to reason for the gospel. (22-23, 28)



PRACTICAL ACTION



1 Familiarize yourself with the way they reason.
Casually question them to discover their worldview.
Be familiar with current events/media that matter to them.

2 Graciously look for ways to share your views.
Look for ways to bridge their fallacies to reality.

“I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 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.**” (17:22-23)

6

“...some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.’ **Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold** or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.”
(17:28-29)

6

Reaching those who do not know God will require us to bridge the gap from their fallen worldview to a biblical one.

(17:23, 29)



PRACTICAL ACTION



1 You must develop the skill of logic and reason.
You must find ways to graciously point out error.

2 Be up to date on world events, culture and media.
Use those events & catastrophes to point to truth.

“...he commands all people everywhere to repent
...he has fixed a day on which he will judge the
world **in righteousness by a man whom he has
appointed**; and of this he has given assurance to all
by raising him from the dead.” (17:28-29)

7

Reaching those who do not know God will
require a calling for repentance because
of the coming judgement on every man.
(17:30-31)



Essentials of the Gospel according to Paul in Acts 17...

The disregard of God as preeminent creator and owner.

The exchange of the glory of the invisible God for the worship of lesser, created and visible things.

The acknowledgement of an inescapable righteous Man-God Judge after death.

The need for repentance of disregarding God, worshiping other things and living contrary to a sovereign Judge.

PRACTICAL ACTION



1 Keep the end goal in mind at all times.

Be a 'nudger'. Look for ways to continually nudge your friend more and more towards the truth.

2 At some point you must put your friend to a decision.

Model again and again what repentance & belief look like.



Comments or Questions