

CONVERSATION STARTERS

SOUTHRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

May 25, 2025

EAT TOGETHER | *Showing up regularly to share life and build relationships*

1. What kinds of things (hobbies/values/experiences) do you tend to easily connect with people over? Have you experienced any unlikely friendships where these typical connects were harder to find?

PRAY TOGETHER | *Joining in on conversations of life and faith*

1. What stood out to you in this week's service? Was there a song that spoke to you? Was there a moment when you sensed the presence of God? Did you meet someone new? Did you learn something from the message? Feel free to watch the message [recap](#) to review the big ideas of the message.
2. On Sunday, we did the S.O.A.P. practice, using **John 15:1-8**. If you're open to it, share what word or phrase stood out to you, and what you reflected on in that passage?
3. In Thessalonica (**Acts 17:1-9**), the believers were accused of "turning the world upside-down". In what ways has Jesus turned your life/world upside-down (or, right-side up)? In what ways have you experienced Jesus inviting you into a life that seems upside-down, compared to the ways of the world in which we live?
4. In Berea (**Acts 17:10-15**), the people demonstrate an eagerness and enthusiasm, gathering daily to seek Jesus together. How does this story compare to your everyday enthusiasm for pursuing and following Jesus? How does our community (and this Life Group) function like a Berea for you?
5. In Athens (**Acts 17:16-34**), Paul is put on trial for introducing foreign gods into Athens. Do you ever feel like following Jesus makes you strange to those around you, almost as if you speak a foreign language?

Paul tried to make a connection with the Athenians over their spiritual devotion by referencing the temple to An Unknown God. Can you think of any similar kinds of spiritual connecting-points in our culture?

Paul also confronts their idolatry, suggesting that they are devoting themselves to things that are not real gods. What might be the gods of our culture? In what ways are we lured into being devoted to them, rather than being fully devoted to Jesus?

Finally, Paul challenges the Athenians to repent, because God (not their supreme court) is the true judge presiding over humanity. This is what gives Paul such confidence as he speaks to them. To what degree does your belief in God as the ultimate judge help you to live your faith with confidence?

LOVE TOGETHER | *Being real to care and make a difference*

1. In these 3 stories, we see how the different communities' level of investment in seeking Jesus affected their level of response. The invitation of Acts 17 is to respond like the Bereans, to eagerly devote our full energy and attention to seeking and following Jesus together, to orient our lives around God. This is what Jesus called, *abiding in him*. In your life, what does "abiding in Christ" look like? What kind of practices, activities, and experiences help you remain connected to Jesus throughout your day? What could you do this week to cultivate your connection to Christ?