

MAIN POINT:

Acts: God is Real

Through the apostle Paul, the Good News of Jesus spread throughout the world. One important message he shared was that only our one true God is real, and worshipping anything else is called an idol. An idol is anything we put ahead of God or in place of God. Paul was in Athens and was upset to see that the city was full of statues of gods or idols. He met with the thinkers of the day to tell them about the one true God. He presented three truths about how God is real. First, God's presence is real. Unlike the idol gods in Athens, the God of the Bible is not distant and impersonal. He wants a relationship with us. In fact, He calls us His children. Secondly, God's resurrection is real. Even death is not an obstacle for the one true God. He raised Jesus from the dead, which demonstrated His power. Man-made idols are unable to do anything and have no power whatsoever. Thirdly, God's command is real. The Bible says that God commands all people to turn away from their idols, and turn to Him. We must repent, or turn away from our sins. After Paul gave his message, some people made fun of his teaching, some wanted more information, and some believed in Jesus then became followers of Paul. God is able to bring out heart change, and we need to turn away from idols in our lives, just like the people in Paul's day. We may not have a statue as an idol, but perhaps our idol is desiring the approval of others, or wanting to be the best at something, or loving money more than God. God wants us to put Him first.

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

1. Today we learned that God is real. We learned that:

- **God's PRESENCE is real**
- **God's RESURRECTION is real**
- **God's COMMAND is real**

Where have you experienced/felt God being present in your life? *(Share your answer and encourage participation.)*

2. Why is it sometimes hard to believe that God is real? Is there something you can do to help remind you that God is real and is personally interested in your life? *(Encourage participation.)*

3. Today we talked about idols in our lives. Remember an idol is when something or someone becomes more important to us than God. Idols aren't just statues from a long time ago. There are idols in our lives today. Some examples of idols are: success, technology, winning, how you look, materialism, money, looking great in the eyes of others and a ton of other things.

What would an idol be in your life? What occupies your time and attention? What happens when we have an idol in place of God?

(Encourage participation.)

4. What is one thing God is prompting you to do after hearing today's lesson and what Paul did in Acts 17?

(Encourage participation.)

FAMILY PRAYER:

I am going to read some passages of scripture to focus us on God and our spiritual family we belong to as followers of Jesus. Then I will bless you.

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

"(Student's name), may you remember that the Lord your God is powerfully with you wherever you go. May you see God working in a real and powerful way in your life. May you see the things that have distracted you from Him and walk in the freedom He brings in your life. May you submit to His will and seek to follow His leading, trusting that He is real, and He alone is God."