

APRIL 2025



Bible Study | Faith in Action

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Prepare

- Bible
- Journal
- Pen/pencil

Get Started

What do we have that we have not received? God loves us with a love so extravagant that He gave His one and only Son for us. This love compels us to live out our lives with the same generosity, bringing glory to the Giver of all.

Study and Learn

Consider the background of today's passage. Paul had just left the cities of Thessalonica and Berea in haste. Many who heard him preach the gospel in these cities believed in Jesus, but his message also stirred up angry crowds and disturbed the authorities. When the believers there sent him away, Paul waited in Athens for Timothy and Silas to join him.

On arrival in Athens, Paul was deeply troubled to find the city filled with idols. As he records in the verse just ahead of today's passage of study, he even saw an altar bearing an inscription to an "unknown god" (v. 23).

• Read Acts 17:24–28.

Paul was compelled to proclaim the gospel to the Athenians, who were worshipping idols in ignorance. He revealed the identity of the "unknown God" to them and imparted three truths:

1. He is the Lord of heaven and earth and cannot be contained in temples built by human hands.
Rather, God is the Creator of all things, "the world and everything in it" (v. 24).
2. He doesn't need anything from humans. In verse 25, Paul wrote, "He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else." God is the giver of all, and we are the receivers.
3. He is sovereign. God created all humankind, every nation, tribe, people, and language, and He "marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries" of their lives (v. 26).

At the end of today's passage, Paul's words emphasize how God is not far from us, and he quoted an ancient poem to illustrate humanity's dependence on God: "In him we live and move and have our being" (v. 28). The point is that while idols cannot exist without people, humanity is wholly dependent upon God.

Apply

God is the originator and provider of all. His protective care and divine power through our circumstances—our locations, our families, our histories—lead us to seek Him.

In Athens, carved images of gold, silver, and stone crafted by human hands became objects of misplaced worship. Similarly, today we disorder our affections and our lives in pursuit of lesser things. But God cannot coexist with idols in our hearts. We were made to worship God.

As God's offspring, we reflect our Father to a world in need. And because we have received so much from God, we have an abundance to share. Our capacity to give finds its source in the extravagant generosity of our Father, who is near to us and richly provides us with life and breath and everything we need. We give as an act of worship.

Follow Up

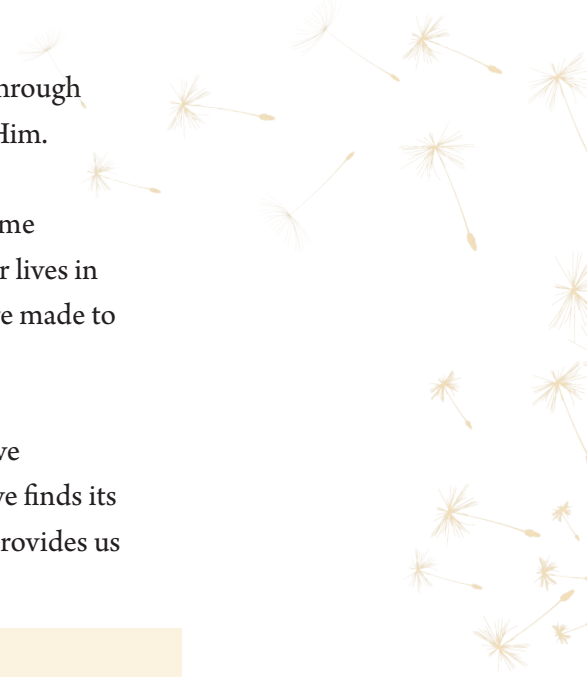
How can you worship God this week by giving generously? With your time or your attention? With your home or your income? Generosity is the natural outpouring of God's work in our lives, and it glorifies Him.

Commit to Memory

Verses: **Acts 17:24–25**

Challenge: **Acts 17:24–28**

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KRISTEN SOSEBEE is a writer for an international nonprofit focused on seeing people from every nation reached with the hope of the gospel.



People experiencing homelessness are varied—youth, older adults, veterans, people living with disabilities, or parents with children. They may spend the night in shelters or outside, utilizing sidewalks, empty buildings, parks, and wooded areas. Each individual's story is unique, but they have one thing in common: All are loved by God.

Shelters, food banks, and other ministries work to help end homelessness, but they can't do it alone. In the report "State of Homelessness: 2024 Edition," the National Alliance to End Homelessness says the number of people experiencing homelessness in the United States has increased 12 percent since the previous year, which was the largest increase since the organization began collecting data in 2007. Both genders and all ethnic groups are included among the population with reasons varying from post-traumatic stress disorder, drug abuse, job loss, eviction or foreclosure, domestic violence, and more.

One way to show compassion and begin relationships so you can share Christ is to host a meal for those experiencing homelessness, specifically a pancake breakfast. Get together with your myMISSION group, grab a griddle and supplies, and consider these factors while planning.

1. Consider partnering with a local homeless ministry or food bank. These organizations will know the number of people to plan for and can assist in spreading the

word. If they offer meals on a regular basis, your group could volunteer to serve one morning. Contact your local government office for permission to use a park or school. If these locations aren't available, you could use your church property. Arrange for transportation using church buses. No matter the location, make sure those coming feel safe and welcome.

2. Plan to have enough supplies to serve pancakes and syrup and possibly a variety of other foods, like sausage, bacon, eggs, and fruit. Remember to also have milk, coffee, juice, and bottled water. Plan for leftovers so attendees can take food with them.
3. Consider children who may be in attendance. Plan a craft and games.
4. If partnering with a local ministry or food bank, ask the organization to provide an information table and personnel at the event.
5. Prepare to share the gospel, whether through a group presentation or in one-on-one discussions.
6. Consider ways you could partner with the local ministry again in the future. One option could be to prepare personal care kits that include travel-sized shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, antiperspirant, feminine care products, and energy bars.

Your community may not have a large homeless population, but every community has someone who is hungry, lonely, and in need of the love of Christ. Look around, seek them out, and *see* them.

LYNN DURHAM remembers a youth missions trip to work among people experiencing homelessness in Atlanta, Georgia, that was eye opening and heart changing.