



Hill Cliffe Study Guide
Sunday 26th September 2021

Sharing Christ

Please read Acts 17.1-4 & 16-31

1. What differences do you notice about Paul's approach to sharing the Good News about Jesus in these two different situations? Why does he change his approach with different people?

For many of us, especially after 18 months of lockdowns and restrictions, our world has become much more insular and socially reduced. Many of us need to be inspired and motivated to connect again with the wider world with compassion and conviction like Paul.

Please read 1 Corinthians 9.20-23; John 3.16-17

2. How does Paul's sense of conviction about people's need of Christ, and his creativity in connecting with others, inspire you?
3. How do you think Paul, (if he were alive today and living in Warrington), might adapt his approach so he could reach out and share Christ with the people who live on your street, or work in your workplace, or go to your college? How might you?

In Athens, Paul identified some ways in which the people were trying to make sense of life and connect with God – even though they had little idea about God.

4. How have your friends/ colleagues been trying to make sense of life in the pandemic?

5. Please discuss the following excerpt from an article on the BBC website on Sunday...
'Some 51% of 18 to 34-year-olds polled by Savanta ComRes said they pray at least once a month, compared with 24% of those aged 55 and over. It also found 49% of the younger age group "attended" a place of worship every month, compared with 6% of over-55s.' It cited the impact of the pandemic as a factor in these results, and the availability to faith sites online.

6. Paul didn't say very much about the gospel in Athens. He just dug up the ground a little, planted a few seeds, and started a conversation. What seeds do you want to pray about planting with someone you know this week?

Most non-Christians are perhaps unlikely to step out their comfort zone and come to a church building or an Alpha Course, (although, thankfully, some will if they are invited). This emphasizes the need for us all to share Christ with people outside the church - in the 'marketplace' where people normally live and work. But here we have an issue – most of us Christians are uncomfortable speaking about faith outside of church!

So... for a non-Christian to hear about Christ from a Christian – one of them is going to have to step out their comfort-zone. Which will it be?

7. How can we help, encourage and support our brothers and sisters in stepping outside our comfort zone with compassion and conviction for others?