

**Introduction: *Define idolatry.***

Say something like this: “Today’s passage and lesson focus on the idolatrous culture surrounding the early church. Idolatry seems like an ancient issue. What comes to mind when you picture idolatry today?”

After learners have shared answers, watch the following video, “What Is Idolatry?” (2 minutes, 55 seconds):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSUJvvTEpp4>

Engage learners in discussing what idolatry looks like in our lives today and encourage them to keep this in mind throughout the lesson.

**Point 1: *Offer some historical perspective.***

To help learners grasp the city of Athens, show this short video, “Athens, Greece: Ancient Acropolis and Agora” (4 minutes, 32 seconds), showing modern Athens with a look at the history of the city:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP-FsX0QW88>

You may also want to point out some of the notable items in the history of Athens found on this website:

<https://www.ancient.eu/timeline/Athens/>

**Point 2: *Promote cultural sensitivity.***

After discussing Acts 17:17-31, point out that Paul was culturally sensitive: he understood the people around them, made a connection they could follow, and treated them with respect.

Then ask this question: “Have you ever found yourself in an area, whether in this country or another, when you were naive about the culture around you?” Encourage learners to be aware of the people, traditions, and customs in any area new to them.

Use the information from this article, “Cultural Research as a Tool for Missionary Engagement” by David Sills as a guide not only for missionaries but also for every Christ-follower who wants to live on mission for Jesus:

<https://www.imb.org/2017/07/03/cultural-research/>

**Conclusion: *Encourage one another in evangelism.***

Read the following statement from the Conclusion of Session 11 (Leader Guide, page 149; Personal Study Guide, page 117): “Sadly, many Christians in our churches know what the gospel is but fail to share it with others. The gospel is not only for knowing but also for sharing.”

Spend time encouraging one another to share Jesus with friends, coworkers, family members, strangers, and people in the community. Invite them to join you in Bible study, prayer, and other tools that prepare us for devoted, lifelong walking with Jesus.

**Teaching Tip of the Week**

While this might be the most well known calling that our Lord Jesus has given the church, it might also be the one thing the people in your group are unwilling or afraid to do: share Jesus with others. Pray for them individually through the week, that the Holy Spirit would open their hearts to hear and believe the power of proclaiming the gospel message to others in conversation.