

## Acts 17:22-31 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood up before the meeting of the Areopagus council and said, “Men of Athens, everything I see here tells me you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> I was going through your city and I saw the things you worship. I found an altar that had these words written on it: ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ You worship a god that you don’t know. This is the God I want to tell you about.

<sup>24</sup> “He is the God who made the whole world and everything in it. He is the Lord of the land and the sky. He does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> He is the one who gives people life, breath, and everything else they need. He does not need any help from them. He has everything he needs. <sup>26</sup> God began by making one man, and from him he made all the different people who live everywhere in the world. He decided exactly when and where they would live.

<sup>27</sup> “God wanted people to look for him, and perhaps in searching all around for him, they would find him. But he is not far from any of us. <sup>28</sup> It is through him that we are able to live, to do what we do, and to be who we are. As your own poets have said, ‘We all come from him.’

<sup>29</sup> “That’s right. We all come from God. So you must not think that he is like something people imagine or make. He is not made of gold, silver, or stone. <sup>30</sup> In the past people did not understand God, and he overlooked this. But now he is telling everyone in the world to change and turn to him. <sup>31</sup> He has decided on a day when he will judge all the people in the world in a way that is fair. To do this he will use a man he chose long ago. And he has proved to everyone that this is the man to do it. He proved it by raising him from death!”

## **Lessons from this scripture and to talk about**

In this lesson, Paul tells the Athenians exactly who he believes that God is. Acts 17 helps us to understand who God is and encourages us to tell others about our Almighty God. When Paul entered Athens he talked to everyone that would listen to him and told them all about Christ. He told people who were like him and he told people who were very different from him. The people of Athens could have had Paul kicked out of the city or sent to jail for proclaiming that Jesus was God's son, but he trusted God and boldly told them about God anyway. The people in Athens were typically educated and enjoyed debating the latest religions, even though they didn't understand that what Paul was saying was true. Paul is invited to speak to a group of people at a place called the Areopagus. Paul teaches that God is the **Creator**. He created the world. He created us. He doesn't rely on humans to serve him because He created them in the first place. We are called God's offspring. That means that we are his children. We have been adopted into his family. God is a **Father** to his children. He is not an image or an idol that we cannot reach, but our Father. He loves us because we are one of his own. Paul reminds us if we know Jesus and are a child of God, then Jesus will serve as a sacrifice for our sins. However if we do not believe in Jesus, then we will be on our own and will have to pay for our own sins. The people listened to what Paul had to say. Some believed and others did not. But, Paul was not discouraged and stayed in Athens and continued to teach the people about God.\

**These are Chrissy's thoughts of added things to talk with your children about this scripture.**

**This is a text that is good to talk about our faith as one of many. If we can get a nod to respecting the shrines of others, that would be great. Also, it might be a good place to talk about how God lives everywhere, not just in the special places we set aside for God (like shrines).**

This is a great story and you know how Mrs. Halligan loves to show you maps about where the story happened. This story happened in Athens, the capital city of Greece.



Paul gave this speech on Areopagus Hill in Athens, Greece and here is a picture of it. People go to see where this speech was given.



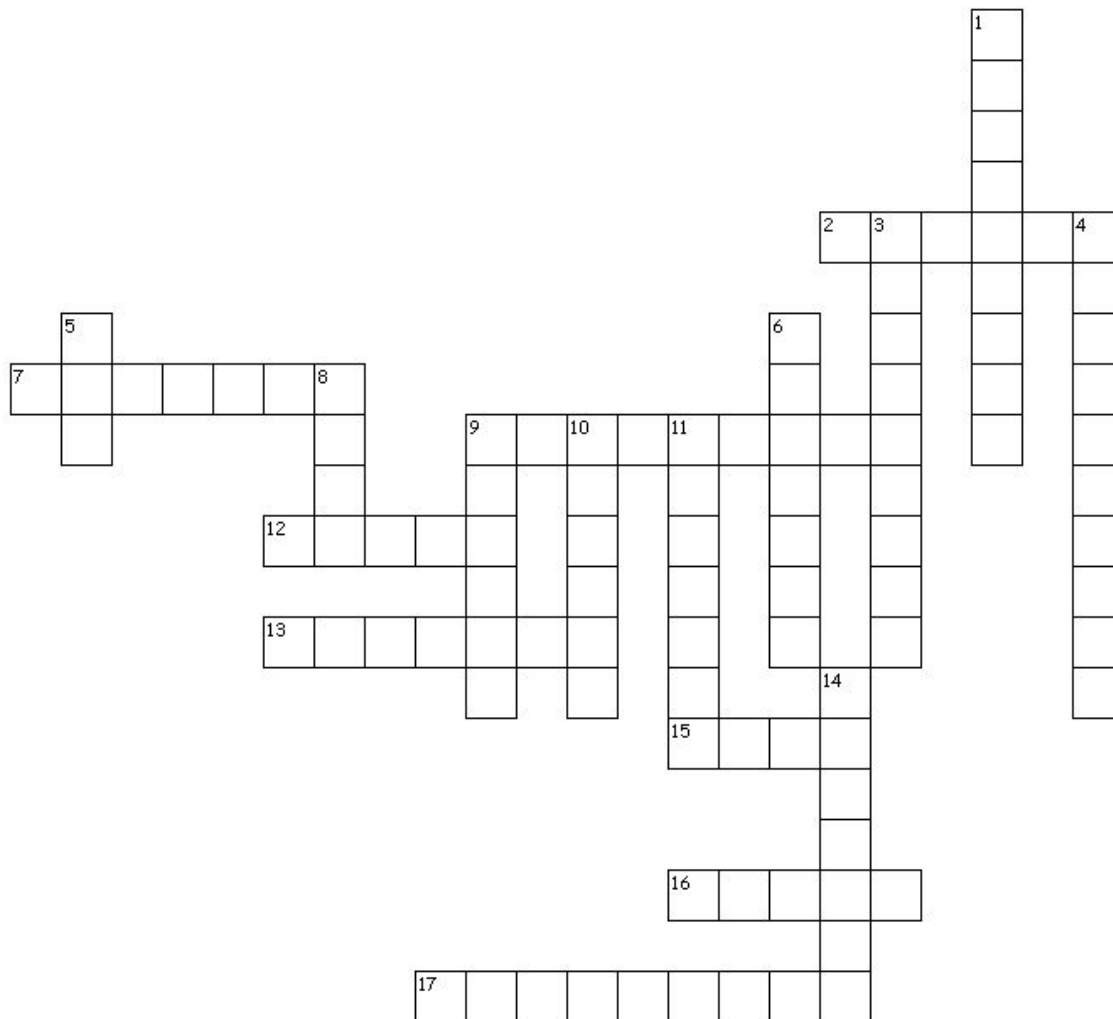


Paul preaching to the Athenians.

Acts 17:22-31 Word Search

C Q D B C G D S B D M Z N K G  
H R S B R B O F U A V K I I Z  
R N Y E Z M G Q S E S F C F A  
V M E O E W Q U E O B C P Y T  
J C A T C J G V H F A M G S H  
E R Y U P A N W R S I R E J E  
A Y B X P Z I I R J D L K I N  
Z M T O E Y H K Z A Z L M D S  
H K E J P V T C K I I P G W L  
A R B L A O Y T S I K S G F X  
A O F S E A R C H I N G I K K  
A C F F K R E M R Q T C F N Y  
F Z F F Y N V P J P D A J D G  
J E X V S I E Z I J F E J N B  
P G L U A P P A U X A N A D Y

AREOPAGUS  
ATHENS  
EVERYTHING  
GOD  
GREECE  
LIFE  
PAUL  
RAISING  
SEARCHING



Across

- 2. a country in southern Europe on the Mediterranean Sea
- 7. great love and devotion
- 9. to look for something
- 12. a raised table or platform used for religious ceremonies
- 13. not known; not familiar
- 15. the state of being that sets animals and plants apart from rocks, minerals, and other things that are not alive
- 16. the universe; everything that exists
- 17. A hill in Athens , Greece

Down

- 1. not the same; not alike
- 3. showing or having religious beliefs
- 4. every part; all
- 5. Creator and ruler of the universe
- 6. to bring back to life
- 8. Apostle that gave the Areogagus sermon
- 9. a speech that is intended to teach
- 10. Capital city in Greece
- 11. a group of persons gathered together to discuss or make decisions about public matters
- 14. a building or place where a god is worshiped

## Craft Idea!

Who is God Mobile Craft: Create a Mobile with 5 parts to represent five of the different roles of God. Use a metal hanger as the top of the mobile. Give each child six foam shapes. Write *God Is* on one shape and attach this to the wire hanger by tape or by tying it on with string. On the other five shapes write Creator, Ruler, Sustainer, Father, and Judge. Use a hole punch to make holes in these shapes and then use a ribbon to attach them to the bottom of the metal hanger. They can then hang up their mobiles as a reminder of who God is. So, each child will need 1 hanger, 6 foam shapes, 6 pieces of ribbon/string, markers and a hole puncher.

### Works Cited

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