

Wednesday

Read: Acts 17:26-27 *God the creator of all*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How have you ever searched for God and felt God was not there?*
2. *How close is God to us? Is that a good thing?*

Prayer Focus You created us with a desire for you, to always be seeking you, True God. We can miss sight of you or feel you're too far away to do anything in our lives. Be patient with us as we learn again to find you right here, right now.

Thursday

Read: Acts 17:28-29 *God is not created by us*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How do you see yourself as one of God's offspring?*
2. *Do you have an image of God in your imagination?*

Prayer Focus We're glad we're related to you, that we're in a relationship with you and not looking to things of this world to give us life and love. We're glad you're not unknown to us. Bless your children today, God of all creation.

Friday

Read: Acts 17:30-31 *God confirms our judge*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How does the risen Christ live and breathe in your life? In our church?*
2. *How can you strengthen your sense of God's nearness?*

Prayer Focus You're the final word, Holy One, and you gave power to the most loving and compassionate judge, the risen Christ. Guide us as we humbly turn, seek, and find a life we can share, in you.

“May you love God so much that you love nothing else too much.” *New Century Hymnal*

God is Nearby

Pastor's message: Acts 17:22-31

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Briefly, tell how you've recently been moved by something in nature.*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Acts 17:22-31**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

GOD IS NEARBY **May 14, 2023**

Monday

Read: Acts 17:22-23a *What god is this?*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think the Athenians had an altar to an unknown god?*
2. *What does your home or life say about who you are and who God is to you?*

Prayer Focus Eternal God, we feel you're near even when we aren't aware or can't see what you're doing. Assure us that you are present and steadfast. Draw our attention back to you, to knowing you're with us, always.

Tuesday

Read: Acts 17:23b-25 *The God that is*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Do you think we can ever really know God? Why?*
2. *What does it mean to you that God is the creator of all?*

Prayer Focus You are as close as our breath, our living. You are not in a building or a box or any object. We live in you. Thank you, Maker of All, for being the living God, the one who calls us back from chasing after unknown, hollow gods, and into something much more.