



**Acts 17:20** While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. 19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean."

**Have a group member read the scripture above, if you have time read through Acts 17:30.**

**Icebreaker:** What is one topic or person that peaks your curiosity?

### **Conversation Starters**

1. What qualities existed in Paul and the people of Athens that made this exchange possible?
2. What intentional planning and goal setting could you do to make room for more curiosity?  
SMART Goals - Specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound. I.e. I will invite \_\_\_\_\_  
to go for a walk in the next two weeks hoping to get a chance to listen and ask good question.
3. Who in your life is looking for a listening ear?
4. What would change in your life and relationships if you made the choice to become curious and listen more?
5. Where could you pivot from being critical to being curious? Be specific.
6. What keeps you from inviting someone to speak more so you can listen and hear more?
7. If you are married how have you allowed yourself to be influenced by your partner?
8. When you disagree with someone how do you remain curious?
9. Which of these statements might work for you when you disagree with your partner or friend, what would you add?
  - Will you tell me more?
  - Can you help me understand?
  - Would you be willing to explain to me how you came to that conclusion?
  - Will you help me learn from you?

Do you agree with Alice's statement, "the church should be the safest place on earth to be curious?" Why or why not?