

*Biblical Drama based on Acts 17:16-34**Parts: Narrators 1-2, Tour Guide, Tourist, Paul, Dionysius (die-o-NICE-us), Damaris (da-MAR-is)*

Narrator 1: The apostle Paul traveled all over the ancient world. His goal was to share the message of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible. But this wasn't always easy.

Tour Guide: Come along, folks, we are now at the end of our tour of the great city of Athens!

Tourist: I can't believe all the wonderful buildings, that are here! Not to mention the fountains and the statues —

Tour Guide: And now we reach the Areopagus (AIR-ee-OP-a-gus). This is where our teachers and philosophers like to gather to discuss important matters.

Tourist: What a beautiful spot, just below the great hill of the Acropolis (a-CROP-ow-liss)!

Tour Guide: Amazing, isn't it? And here is our statue of the sun god, Apollo, and there is our statue of Athena, goddess of the arts, and —

Paul: Excuse me, sir. But what is this over here?

Tour Guide: That, my friend, is our altar to the Unknown God.

Paul: Why would you honor a god you don't even know?

Tour Guide: Well, we wouldn't want to forget a god, would we? That might make the god angry. So, we're trying to play it safe and keep everyone happy — just in case!

Paul: Friends, I can see that you are very religious. But let me tell you about this God that you do not know. I bring you the message of the One True God!

Tour Guide: What would you know about such things? You're just an uncultured Jew!

Paul: Regardless of what you think of me, I am talking about a God who is real. He made the world and everything in it: the sky, the stars, the sea.

Tour Guide: Sorry to interrupt, but I believe it was Poseidon (po-SIDE-on) who made the sea. Or maybe it was Zeus (ZOOSE); I don't remember.

Paul: There is *one* God — he is the only One who rules over all!

Tourist: All you have is *one* god? What a loser! Where does this "one god" of yours live?

Paul: The One True God doesn't live in any temple. And yet, he is actually not far from each one of us, for "In him we live and move and have our being" — even as some of your own poets have said, "We are indeed his offspring."

Tour Guide: What does he look like? Should we make a new statue for him?

Paul: Since we're God's children, we shouldn't think of him as an image made out of gold or silver or stone. He's real, and he wants all of us to turn to him and repent.

Dionysius: Repent? I don't know this word.

Paul: It means to be sorry for your sins, and change your ways. You see, God has chosen a day when he will judge the world with justice. And the one who will do the judging is his own son, Jesus Christ. He has proven this by raising Jesus from the dead.

Damaris: This teaching is foreign to me. I haven't heard it before.

Dionysius: We would like to hear more about this.

Damaris: Yes. Could you come back again tomorrow? I want to hear more about this Jesus you speak of.

Narrator 2: When the group heard about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed at Paul. But some listened and believed, and became followers of Jesus — including Dionysius and Damaris.