

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“Saturated (pt. 3)” 04.10.16

**Scripture:** Acts 17:16-34

**Bottom Line:** Finding Common Ground, Preaching Jesus and Moving towards the Mess!

## INTRODUCTION/BREAKING THE ICE:

Start out with a fun, “guess the song,” game for small group bragging rights. Have a contest to see how many people can name these tunes! Use the second page of the guide to pick out your favorites!

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL:

We live in a culture where the Christian faith, worldview, lifestyle, morals, and ethics are not the norm and are becoming less accepted. How should we react to a world, culture, and people who don't share our worldview, morals, ethics, or beliefs?

### Read Acts 17:16-18

- 1) *Why do you think Paul was provoked to engage the Athenians?*
- 2) *The culture of Athens promoted the exact opposite of Paul's Christian faith. Paul didn't condemn or run away. Rather he moved toward the mess. What can we learn from how Paul moved toward the Athenians?*
- 3) *How can you move toward the mess and not run away when engaging someone of a different belief or background?*

### Read Acts 17:19-34

- 1) *Why do you think people wanted to know more about what Paul had to say?*
- 2) *How can you personally live and speak in such a way that people will want to know more about Jesus?*
- 3) *One of the ways Paul engaged the Athenians was through finding common ground through their poetry and religious questions. What type of common ground can you find in building a relationship with someone with different views than yours? (surfing, exercise, art, music, hunting, job, etc.)*

## LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE

- 1) *Two values we hold as a church are to be missionally-minded and relational evangelism. What is your role in engaging those around you? (Our job is to engage. God's job is to change hearts. That's a huge relief!)*
- 2) *What should be your motivation to move towards the mess and engage people? (a. We want to do what God did for us, “While we were sinners...” b. How happy God must be to see us pursue, not retreat in fear. c. Genuine love for people)*
- 3) *Who in your life do you need to engage? Take time with your small group to pray for these people.*

## The Lyric Guessing Game

*Strangers waiting  
Up and down the boulevard  
Their shadows searching in the night  
Streetlight people  
Living just to find emotion  
Hiding somewhere in the night (Don't Stop Believing by Journey)*

*My loneliness is killin' me  
I must confess I still believe  
When I'm not with you I lose my mind (Answer: Baby One More Time by Britney Spears)*

*And the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true  
If happy little bluebirds fly  
Beyond the rainbow  
Why, oh why, can't I? (Answer: Somewhere Over the Rainbow by Judy Garland)*

*There's nothing you can know that isn't known  
Nothing you can see that isn't shown  
There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be  
It's easy (Answer: All You Need is Love by the Beatles)*

*You may think that I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will live as one (Answer: Imagine by John Lennon)*

*You shake my nerves and you rattle my brain  
too much love drives a man insane.  
You broke my will, but what a thrill. (Answer: Great Balls of Fire by Jerry Lee Lewis)*

*For what is a man? What has he got?  
If not himself - Then he has naught.  
To say the things he truly feels  
And not the words of one who kneels. (Answer: My Way by Frank Sinatra)*