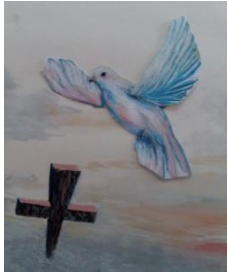


The Surprising Acts of God Week 7 – An Unknown God



The early Christians whose stories are told in the book of Acts have no shortage of surprises. The resurrection sets off a host of unexpected events and changes for Jesus' followers, even changes within themselves. If our own spiritual lives have come to seem humdrum and every day, these stories will awaken in us a new desire for God's work in the lives of unsuspecting, ordinary people like ourselves. As we explore the journey of surprises in these texts, we will learn the spiritual habit of welcoming an unpredictable God and coming to expect the unexpected.

This week we explore Acts 17. God is unknown for many people, mis-known for many people and only partially known for all of us. And, yet, the good news is that, God makes God's self known to us – most

profoundly through the gift of his son Jesus Christ to the world.

Questions for Reflection:

- What stands out for you in this story about Paul in Athens?
- What does Paul emphasize about God in verses 23-29?
- Paul uses idols and Greek poetry as points of contact with the people in this passage. What could you use as a point of contact with people today in your efforts to share the Gospel message with others?
- How might you get to know God this week?
- What surprising thing have you learned about God this week?

Spiritual Practice: God Sighting or Practice the Awareness of God

God Sightings®

Paying attention to and looking for God's presence in the world can help us to more fully know and experience God. *God Sighting* is a powerful spiritual discipline. The phrase God Sighting is a phrase trademarked by Group publishing and used as part of their VBS curriculum. But this isn't a spiritual practice just for

children. God sightings mean looking for God in our daily lives. When God Sightings becomes part of our daily life, when we are looking, we see and experience God in the world and God becomes more fully known to us.

A God Sighting could be something in nature, the kindness of a person, a prayer, situation, etc. God Sightings help us to notice, pay attention to and look for God. When this spiritual practice becomes part of our daily life, when we are looking, we see God at work in every aspect of life. This spiritual discipline is also referred to as the awareness of God's presence, practicing attentiveness, or practicing the presence of God. In order to practice attentiveness, we must first listen for God and watch for God's actions in our lives and community. Looking for God invites us to see the world through fresh eyes.

Where do you experience God in the world?

In what ways do you see God at work in the world?

How does pausing and paying attention help you to notice God in your life?

How do your God Sightings help you to be more fully aware of God's presence?

How do your God Sightings remind you of the wonder and hope of our amazing God?

How does looking for God help God to be more fully known to you?

Try recording your God Sightings in a journal (paper or digital).

What do you learn about God through your God Sightings?

