

Acts 17:22-31



Starter question

How would you describe God?

Pray

Father, thank you that you have given us the Bible to tell us about you. Please help us to learn more about you today. Amen

Background

The story we are reading from the Bible today happened a few years after Jesus' death and resurrection. One of his followers, a man called Paul, travelled to different countries to tell people about Jesus. In this story he is in Athens, in Greece, and he is speaking to the Areopagus, who were a group of important people in the city.



Read: Acts 17:22-31

²² Then Paul stood before the meeting of the Areopagus. He said, "Men of Athens, I can see that you are very religious in all things. ²³ I was going through your city, and I saw the things you worship. I found an altar that had these words written on it: "TO A GOD WHO IS NOT KNOWN." You worship a god that you don't know. This is the God I am telling you about! ²⁴ He is the God who made the whole world and everything in it. He is the Lord of the land and the sky. He does not live in temples that men build! ²⁵ This God is the One who gives life, breath, and everything else to people. He does not need any help from them. He has everything he needs. ²⁶ God began by making one man. From him came all the different people who live everywhere in the world. He decided exactly when and where they must live. ²⁷ God wanted them to look for him and perhaps search all around for him and find him. But he is not far from any of us: ²⁸ 'By his power we live and move and exist.' Some of your own poets have said: 'For we are his children.' ²⁹ We are God's children. So, you must not think that God is like something that people imagine or make. He is not like gold, silver, or rock. ³⁰ In the past, people did not understand God, but God ignored this. But now, God tells everyone in the world to change his heart and life. ³¹ God has decided on a day that he will judge all the world. He will be fair. He will use a man to do this. God chose that man long ago. And God has proved this to everyone by raising that man from death!"

International Children's Bible (ICB)

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? Questions

1) These verses tell us many things about what God is like. Consider the following statements and decide if they are true or false. (Look at the verses again if you are not sure.)

- God made the whole world and everything in it.
- God is the Lord of the land and the sky.
- God lives in temples built by people.
- God made some of the people in the world (but not all of them).
- God wants people to search for him and find him.
- God is far away from us.
- We are God's children.
- God wants all of us to change our hearts and lives.
- God will one day judge the world fairly.

2) Would you describe God differently now from how you did before?

3) What does God want us to do? (verses 27, 30)

4) How can you do this during the coming week?

Pray

Father God, thank you that you have made the whole world and all people in it. Thank you that you rule over it fairly. Thank you that you are not far away from us. Please help us to search for you and find you. Please help us to change our hearts and lives as you want us to. Amen.

Science and Christianity

The preacher for today's livestream service does a lot of work about science and religion. These verses from the Bible help us to see how science and religion fit together, and why science is a great thing for Christians to be interested in!

God made the whole world, and everything in it (verse 24). So all of science is about finding out more about what God has made – from the tiniest insect to the biggest ocean!

And, verses 28 and 29 tell us that God has made us to be like him in lots of ways (this is what being "God's children" means in these verses). This means that God has given human beings the intelligence and creativity to do science and to find out more about him and his universe.

Maybe this week you'll be doing a science lesson. While you do it, remember that God made the world and everything in it, and he wants us to find out about everything he's made!

Suggested activities

Choose one or two of these which suit your family.

Game: pick a letter and think of as many animals and plants beginning with this letter as you can (set a time limit). Score one point for every animal or plant that you think of, and a bonus point for each one that you have which no-one else has thought of. Praise God for the amazing variety in his creation.

Game: play hide and seek. Remember that God wants us to search for him and find him.

Activity: think about how you experience the natural world with each of your senses. How many ways can you do this during the week? As you do, praise God for his creation.

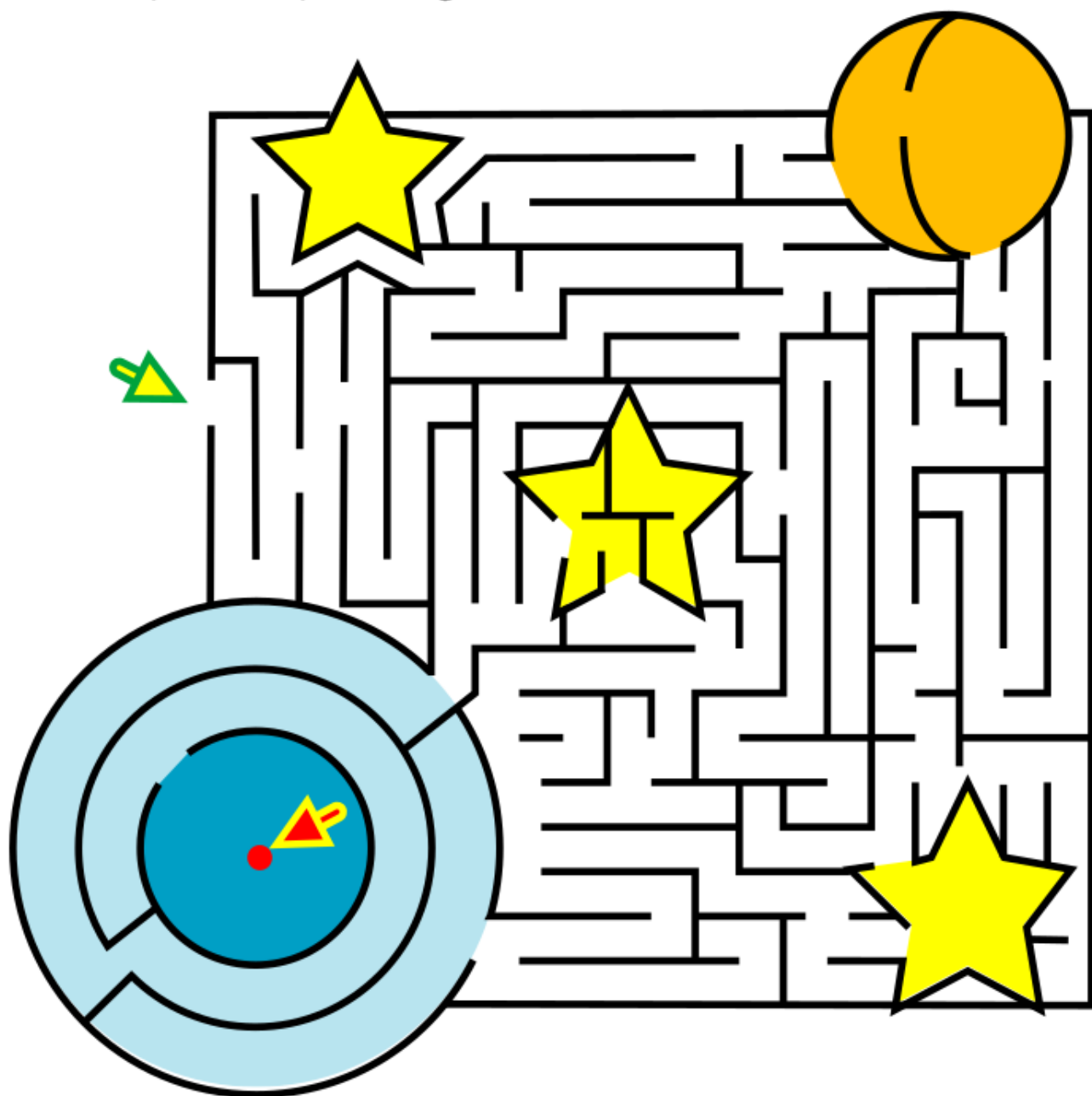
Puzzle: find your way through the maze below.

Puzzle: find the words in the wordsearch below.

Craft: colour in the picture of Paul preaching in Athens (below).

God Made the World Maze

Find your way through the heavens.



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L V J Z M L N N Z I C R
H O I U U D A R F H R L
W O R A H T X D Y B E G
H O P D H F N N D A A Y
S A R E O P A G U S T I
G E N S E M Y C Y Q O E
N S O M H G A C Q Z R J
E V N L D I N F I N D K
G J G W S Z P A B P J S
D Z R W M H D P H G F D
U N P H C R A E S C X Y
J R T Y Q F N W Q P W V

AREOPAGUS
CREATOR
LORD
WORSHIP

ATHENS
FIND
PAUL

CHANGE
JUDGE
SEARCH

Paul Preached In Athens

