

## Lesson 130: Paul Teaches in Athens

[Acts 17:16-31](#)

**Youtube Link for Teachers:** <https://youtu.be/7bLEVIjv1OU>

**Children's Bible Story Video:** <https://youtu.be/5QjdGn1IWXU>

**Worship Theme: God is alive.**

**Memory Verse:** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. I Want to Know Christ [https://youtu.be/oM\\_I89dK7hs](https://youtu.be/oM_I89dK7hs)
2. I Will Follow Jesus <https://youtu.be/aasilZXGorc>
3. I Know That <https://youtu.be/ywt-KvGIQcE>

### Pray

**Song:** Select songs from the list above.

### Icebreaker: "Stay Alert!"

1. Have the children sit in a circle.
2. The teacher will stand in the center of the circle and point to a child.
3. Then the child needs to put their head down and the two children sitting left and right of the child will have to point to each other. The first person to point to the other person stays in the game and the other person leaves the game.
4. Continue to play the game until everyone's had a turn.
5. After the game, explain to the children that we always need to be prepared to share the gospel.



### Introduction:

It's good news that Jesus was born, died on the cross, came back to life, and is coming again soon. It's good news because it's true! It's good news because God is alive and real. But some people think that God is not real. When Paul visited a place called Athens, the people there did not believe in God. Let's find out how Paul was able to share the good news of Jesus to them!

### Bible Story:

In Bible days, Athens was a famous Greek city. The Apostle Paul went to Athens to tell the people about Jesus. He discovered something that made him sad. The people in Athens had built things out of stone, wood, and metal—and they were worshiping what they built! These are called idols. Idols are anything that people love more than the one true living God. They thought the idols, things that they made, were gods!

The Bible says that the people even worshiped one idol that said, "To an unknown god." When Paul saw the idol for the unknown god, he knew he was supposed to tell the Athenians about the true living God.

Paul told the people that God created the world and everything in it. He explained that God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Paul explained that God proved he is God when he raised Jesus from the dead. God is alive! He explained that God is not like silver or gold or stone—not an image made by man's design and skill. Paul told the Athenians that they needed to repent and believe in the true living God. Many of the people listened to Paul and became Christians. But that meant getting rid of their idols. Some were happy to do that; some were not. But God is alive, and he is much better than any created thing that they were worshiping.

Sometimes, we can have idols in our lives by loving something more than God. It can be money or greed or selfishness. We must remember that God is better than anything that this world can give because our God is alive! The resurrection of Jesus proves that God is alive.

Some people don't believe that Jesus actually came back to life. Some people who lived when Jesus was on earth thought Jesus' friends stole his body. But Jesus appeared to his disciples several times after he rose from the dead. Those appearances prove that Jesus came back to life. The disciples of Jesus were willing to suffer to share the good news of God being alive because they saw the resurrected Jesus.

Do you believe that God is alive? Do you believe that God is better than any idols of this world? Let us be like Paul in the Bible today and tell others that God is alive!

### Questions to discuss:

1. What city did Paul visit in this Bible story? (Athens)
2. What did the Athens like to worship? (idols)
3. What are idols? (Anything that people worship and love more than God)
4. How did Paul try to tell people to believe in God? (He explained about the resurrection of Jesus which shows God is alive)
5. How do we know that God is alive? (Because Jesus died and resurrected and many people saw the resurrected Jesus; because God is still working in our lives by being good to us)
6. What can you tell friends who do not believe in God to show that God is alive? (Let the children answer)

### Game: "Stay Alive"

Materials Needed: A ball



1. Have the children stand in a circle.
2. Teacher stands in the middle of the circle and give a number to each child.
3. Then the teacher will throw up a ball and say a number at the same time.
4. The child whose number is called must run to catch the ball. If they fail to catch the ball, they're dead and need to leave the game.



5. Play the game until everyone is out of the game.
6. After the game, explain to the children that we will one day all die. But God is alive forever and will give us eternal life in heaven. We must share this Good News of eternal life in God with other people.

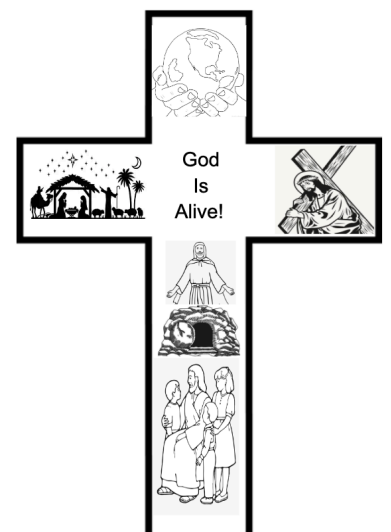
### Memory Verse:

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

### Craft: "God Is Alive!"

Materials Needed: Print craft sheet, crayons, scissors, glue

1. Give the craft sheet for each child.
2. Have the children color the pictures outside the cross.
3. Explain to the children that God is alive because he is the Creator of all things in the world. Then have the children cut out the earth picture, cut, and glue to the top of the cross.
4. Explain to the children that God is alive because he came to us as a baby. Then have the children color the nativity scene, cut, and glue to the left side of the cross.
5. Explain to the children that God is alive because Jesus died for our sins. Then have the children color the crucifixion scene, cut, and glue to the right side of the cross.
6. Explain to the children that God is alive because Jesus rose from the dead. Then have the children color the empty tomb and Jesus, cut, and glue to the lower part of the cross.



7. Explain to the children that God is alive because he loves and cares for us even today! Then have the children color Jesus with children, cut, and glue to the lowest part of the cross.
8. Cut out the big cross and say, "God is alive!"

**Song:** Select songs from the list above

**Pray**

**Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)**

Friendship with Jesus is so wonderful that Jesus' friends were willing to take risks to invite others to share in that friendship. Read through Acts 17:16-31. Keep an eye out for how each group of people was different from Paul. Why was he able to love people with different beliefs instead of judging them to be evil or bad? In your life, who has beliefs that are different from yours? How can you show Jesus' love to that person like Paul showed love to the Athens?

God Is Alive!



God  
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