



THE  
EXISTENCE  
OF GOD

## LESSON 2: God vs. gods

**ANCHOR STATEMENT:** As a Christ-follower, I have a unique view of Who God is, and I do not believe that there are any other gods before Him.

### MAIN PASSAGE: Acts 17:16-27

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed when he saw that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with those who worshiped God, as well as in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also debated with him. Some said, “What is this ignorant show-off<sup>[a]</sup> trying to say?”

Others replied, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign deities”—because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

19 They took him and brought him to the Areopagus,<sup>[b]</sup> and said, “May we learn about this new teaching you are presenting? 20 Because what you say sounds strange to us, and we want to know what these things mean.” 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners residing there spent their time on nothing else but telling or hearing something new.

22 Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said, “People of Athens! I see that you are extremely religious in every respect. 23 For as I was passing through and observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God.’ Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it—he is Lord of heaven and earth—does not live in shrines made by hands. 25 Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. 26 From one man<sup>[c]</sup> he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live. 27 He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

**WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO KNOW:** That the Christian faith leaves no room for false gods.

**WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED:**

Think deeply about the differences between what God is calling us to (monotheism, with Him being the sole focus of our worship) and what the prominent culture suggests (pantheism, where new things and gods are worshipped and counted as equal).