

The Church unleashed as Herald

Paul in Athens Case Study

Good news

- When did you have some amazing news to share?
 - Engagement, pregnant, new job....
- How did you feel when you heard the news?
- How did you feel sharing it with others?

Their Story,

My Story,

God's Story

Their story: Athenians

- Paul studied Athens: full of idols
- Engaged in conversation with Jews and Gentiles
 - Understood more of their life, as well as talking about himself and God
- Conclusion:
 - Athenians a very religious
 - Even an altar to an unknown God
 - This is the ‘hook’ that Paul uses to speak about the Gospel

My Story: Paul

- Not much evidence in the passage that Paul shared his story, but
 - He reasoned and debated with Jews and God fearing Greeks – Paul's background as a Jew
 - Epicurian and Stoic scholars heard this and wanted to know more
 - They became interested in Paul himself, enough to listen to him

God's Story

- Using the idol of the Unknown God, Paul presents the gospel to them
 - God the creator
 - Does not live in a temple
 - Rather he lives in us – in him we live and move and have our being
 - We are his offspring
 - God commands now to repent of idols, etc
 - Warning of the upcoming day of justice
 - By the man he has appointed
 - Proof: he raised him from the dead
- Not the full gospel story: just enough to link God to the Athenians

How does our

“Their Story,

My Story,

God’s Story”

look like?

Their story

- When we have a conversation
- We need to listen to the other
 - What makes them excited or worried, what is it that they love to do
- We need to listen to Holy Spirit
 - Word of wisdom prompted Paul to use the Unknown God
 - What does the Holy Spirit reveal to us about the

Our story

- Using overlaps between their story and our story
- Share that connects, but where God has impacted us
- Tell how God has changed your life
 - Only those things connected to them

God's story

- Explain God's big story
- Not the whole story, but
- Focus on Jesus' life, death and resurrection
 - Ask Holy Spirit to help you remember stories / teachings / parables in the Bible to share
 - Stories of Jesus related to their story and your story

Practice “Our Story”

- Think about how you tell your story with God in three minutes
- Tell your story to each other
- At home: refine your story so you are comfortable sharing it with others!
- Pray for opportunities to share!