



4. How to disagree without disagreeing

Discussion guide – Series II

HOOK:

- Can any of you recall a time where you said something inappropriate or embarrassing in a group setting by mistake? What happened?
- Have you ever been in a conversation where someone said something, and you reacted to it – only to later realise you'd misunderstood?
- What was the main point being made in the video?

BOOK: Acts 17:22-31 - Paul at Athens

- What power does an idol have? (1 Corinthians 8:4).
- Why didn't Paul confront them with the truth that idols are nothing but bits of wood or clay?
- What did this approach achieve? What do we learn from Paul's example here?

LOOK:

- When people say things you disagree with, do you typically disagree openly – or stay quiet to keep the peace?
- Have you ever had someone who disagrees with you approach the conversation so gently that they not only opened up the conversation with you – but also succeeded in changing your view? (If group members cannot think of a spiritual, moral or political type of conversation, consider conversations in which their view was changed, consider with a sales person who was successful in convincing you to buy a product).
- Is it important that we always work to keep the peace? (Note that Jesus didn't.)
- What should our motives be, that determine whether or not we keep the peace? (When should we confront more directly?)

TOOK:

- **Activity:** Break into pairs and have some fun taking turns at asking various awkward questions, or making awkward statements, that the other needs to respond to without any immediate sign of disagreement. How could you (1) somehow compliment the person while (2) asking a question that might help you to better-understand what they have said?
 - Afterwards, share some of the things you said to open up these initially awkward conversations?
- What have you got out of today's discussion?
- Who could you engage in conversation this week to practice these skills?

Pray:

- ...for God to lead you to people at suitable times, to engage in meaningful conversation.
- ...for wisdom and love in your hearts, to help you engage freely and naturally.