



ACTS OF THE  
*Holy Spirit*

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

11 & 12 FEB 2023

“THE SPIRIT WHO REVEALS REDEMPTIVE RESONANCES”

ACTS 17.13-34

### Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
  - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
  - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

## Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

### Sidebox

#### Paul the persecutor to Paul the Evangelist

Following the events of the Jerusalem Council from last week's sermon (Acts 15), Acts 16-19 records Paul's and his missionary colleagues' ministry in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the coastal towns of Macedonia and Greece. The missionaries brought the gospel not only the Gentiles (peoples of non-Jewish ethnic heritage), but also to the Jewish diaspora, reasoning with fellow Jews in synagogues from the Old Testament Scriptures that the Messiah who had to suffer and rise from the dead is indeed Jesus.

Paul was a Jew and a Pharisee – and this background once fuelled discord and hostility (Acts 7-8) towards Jesus Christ and his church (not unlike the “circumcision party” referenced in Acts 15:1). At the same time, Paul was also a Roman citizen who grew up in the city of Tarsus (located on the southern coast of modern-day Türkiye) among Greek-speaking Gentiles. Paul described his approach in interacting and striking resonance with diverse groups of people in his letter to the Corinthians. In bringing people to Christ's salvation, Paul became “like a Jew” to his fellow Jews to “gain those under the law”, while becoming “like one outside the law (a Gentile)” to “those outside the law” (1 Cor. 9:19-23). God used Paul's cultural background in his work of bringing the gospel to all peoples, Jew and Gentile (slave and free, male and female – cf. Gal. 3:27-29).

2. As a CG, have a try at explaining the concept of Redemptive Resonances in your own words. What elements in this concept make sense to you? Which aspects are unclear or confusing?

a) Consider your non-Christian peers (family, friends, colleagues, classmates, etc as relevant) and their “culture / sub-culture”. What are some Redemptive Resonances that could reverberate with them? Discuss as a CG.

b) Think back to the times when you've tried to engage in evangelism, or even when you've just had conversations about spiritual matters. To what extent did you instinctively utilise Redemptive Resonances, even if you're weren't aware of the terminology? How will you be more conscious to draw on Redemptive Resonances in future conversations with others?

3. The Scripture and sermon described how the Apostle Paul, seeing that the people of Athens were giving worship to non-gods, instead of worshipping the One True God, was sharpened / stirred / goaded / poked to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

a) On a scale of 1 to 10, to what extent are you likewise sharpened / stirred / goaded / poked to bear witness to the gospel?

b) If you're not comfortable with your self-score, would you pray and ask the Holy Spirit to stir up your heart and your desire?

4. The sermon mentioned that the Holy Spirit is still at work even when we face hostility for the sake of the gospel, or when our efforts at bearing witness to Jesus meet with mixed reactions. Does this relate to a recent experience you've had? As you reflect, consider what the Lord might be speaking to you. Share with your CG so you can reflect, discern, and pray together.

### **Prayer Items**

5. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.