



## ADVANCE CHURCH NETWORK N O R T H C A R O L I N A

### Cohort Conversations

#### **Week of June 24, 2026: Gospel Partnership – Hope for the hurting**

**Connect**—Who is not here, and who will connect with them? What is something that God has been teaching you recently?

**Scripture Text—Acts 17:16-21 (Share reading the passage together)**

As we read this text listen for: Paul's emotional and spiritual response to the city, the cultural and intellectual climate of Athens, How the gospel begins with listening, presence, and dialogue

Based upon this passage, pray together popcorn style, while being sensitive to how the Spirit leads.

Here's a way to break it down:

**Reverence** God's foolishness is greater than man's wisdom and God's foolishness shames the man's wisdom. He is not afraid by the philosophies and intellectually elite of the world.

**Respond** Confess compassion fatigue and ask for restoration, confess our tendency to speak first before listening, our loss of outrage and concern for the idolatry around us.

**Request** Ask God to awaken deep compassion for hurting people in our cities. Intercede for those wrestling with loss, doubt, trauma, and despair. Ask for wisdom to engage cultural conversations with grace and truth

**Readiness** Pray for readiness to enter hard conversations and painful spaces. Commit to walking patiently with someone who is a seeker.

**Discussion Questions: (Read through the passage together again)**

What does Paul's emotional response reveal about the heart posture needed to bring hope to hurting people?

How do we guard against cynicism or detachment when ministering in spiritually broken environments?

Note that Paul spoke with some degree of frequency in the synagogues and market place before he was invited to speak at the Areopagus. Does this example teach us anything today ?

**Application:**

Is there a hurting group of people or context that God is highlighting to you?