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“ IN THAT MOMENT, I REALIZED
HALEY’S FAITH HAD BECOME
HER OWN. ”

Inspire (for parents)

It was a typical late spring day. But on this particular afternoon, my children were running home from school. My 8-year-old, Haley, was filled with an unusual enthusiasm. “I know God is really real!” she blurted out. My curiosity was piqued.

“You do?” I asked. “How do you know? Tell me what happened!”

“Well Mom, you know how we always walk home from school, right?” Haley began. “I know you told me only to walk on one path ...,” she paused, unsure whether to reveal her disobedience or not. “Well, I’m sorry Mom, but Alex was following us again, and this time he was throwing things at us, he just won’t leave us alone, so I took another path home.”

“So what happened next?” I asked.

“Well, this is the scary part—I walked for awhile and realized I didn’t know where I was,” she said. “I got really scared, but then I remembered I could pray and ask God for help; so we prayed right there on the street. I just asked God which way I should go,

and suddenly I knew the right direction. So I walked to the next corner, and again I didn’t know which way to go. I prayed again, Mom, and again I felt in my heart which way was the right way. Soon I saw the park, and I knew my way home from there! Mom! God really is real, I know it now!”

In that moment, I realized Haley’s faith had become her own. She had come to know that God was real. He was no longer a far off ideal, but knowable and personal.

by Nicki Straza

Getting Started

Scripture: Acts 17 (Paul in Thessalonica/Athens)
Main Point: God Can Be Known

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

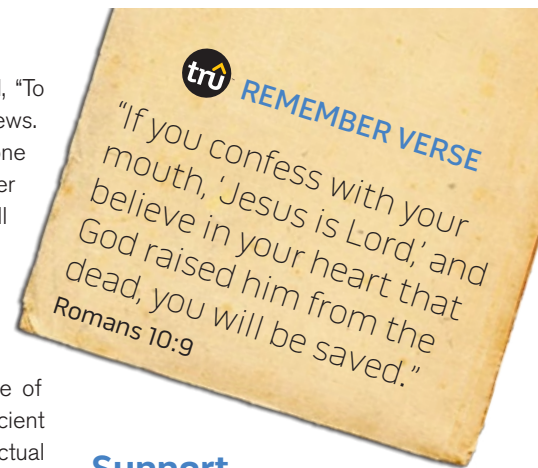
Equip (for parents)

In 1 Corinthians 9:20–22, Paul declared, “To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law ... so as to win those under the law ... I have become all things to all men so that ... I might save some.” Paul lived out this conviction when speaking to the Athenians at the Areopagus (Acts 17).

Paul was from the city of Tarsus—one of the foremost intellectual cities in the ancient world. Because of this, Paul was an intellectual match to the members of the Areopagus, who were mainly Epicureans and Stoics (ancient religious sects). He understood their history, literature, philosophy, and religion, and he used this knowledge to his advantage.

By declaring God is the Creator, Paul attacked the Epicurean and Stoic belief that nothing was created. By asserting that God rules over the world, Paul assailed the Epicureans’ belief that there might be a creator, but he does not interact with the world (v. 24). By quoting one of their poets, “In him we live and move and have our being” (v. 28), Paul refuted the Stoic belief that the divine lives within us. By “becoming” like a Stoic or an Epicurean, Paul strove to win these people to the cause of Christ.

Each of us, whom God has called to proclaim His truth to others, strive to become “All things to all men so that ... [we] might save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22). We strive to tell the Truth that God *wants* to be known and can be known through faith in His Son, Jesus. We rely on the Truth that “God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21b).



Support
(for parents & kids)

> JUST FOR FUN, this week invite your children to pretend they are Paul, and have them read **Acts 17:22–31** to you while standing on a chair or a small stool. Explain to your children that Paul took a bold stand for God and taught many people in this passage. Afterward, think of a question that reflects on what they just read such as, “Who did the people of Athens build an idol to?” or “What kinds of things does Paul tell the people about God?”

Explain to them that there are situations in our lives when God wants us to be bold with His Truth. Talk to them about what some of these situations might be and what they might look like.

Share with your children that what they just heard is part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they will hear more at church this week about how God can be known. Close your time by praying and asking God for the courage and wisdom to proclaim His Truth when He needs you to.

