

JOURNEY

ADVOCATES

PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 2.3: PANTHEISM

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 17:16-34

SUMMARY:

In this week's lesson, we find Paul in Acts 17 face-to-face with a pantheistic worldview. In this chapter, Paul meets the Epicureans, who thought the gods to be so remote that they had very little influence, and the Stoics, who acknowledged the existence of a supreme being in a pantheistic way. Paul masterfully argues that the Stoics and their pantheistic worldview are misaligned with reality.

Students are learning that pantheism holds a dangerous view of god. It limits our worship to material objects or unworthy concepts in our minds and therefore dethrones God and puts humanity in His place. Paul's interaction with the Athenians is a stark reminder that although many things in nature may point us to Him, there is no substitute for the all-powerful Creator of the universe.

CORE VERSES

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

Acts 17:24-25

CORE CONCEPTS

Pantheism is the worldview that everything is divine with no creator distinct from creation.

GOD:

According to pantheism, god refers to the impersonal, divine essence that permeates the entire universe.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- How do you react when you hear things in the media or conversations that sound like pantheism?
- How do you talk to your friends about our divine Creator who is distinct from His creation?
- What are your favorite Bible verses to remind you that God created and loves you?
- Describe your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?