

*I was only planning on spending one week on these verses, but I got so excited about it that I wrote too much for one week, so I needed to split it up into two weeks. 😊 This is week two.*

### **Life and Breath** (taught in January 2020)

**Acts 17:24-25** The God who made the world and everything in it is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands and He is not served by human hands as if he needed anything because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

### **Week 2 (of 2)**

*Optional discussion questions/conversation starters:*

- Quick review of last week's lesson. Whether or not you already read it, read Acts 17:16-34 together now so you have the complete "short story" in which lie our two verses.
- Who spoke the words in these verses? (Paul) Who is Paul?
- Where was Paul when he spoke these words? (Athens, Greece – a highly educated, philosophical environment. The Areopagus was a place where people would share, teach, discuss, and debate philosophical and religious topics.)
- What did Paul see that "distressed" him? (verse 16: idols) What is an idol? We often talk of them symbolically, as things we care about more than God. This is appropriate to do, but in this situation, the idols were real statues to their many gods. How did God transition them from their idols to the one true God? (verse 23: the altar "to an unknown god" – This was brilliant! His next words are striking! "Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you." So cool!)
- His very next words are our two verses: "The God who made the world and everything in it is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands and He is not served by human hands as if he needed anything because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else." When Paul mentioned "temples built by hands", to what was he referring? (the idols/statues of their gods)

- Do you see how the context of verses matter so very much? It is easy to take a verse and teach something about it that either isn't true or at least not what it was talking about. Do you see how much more exciting it is when we have the context of the story?
- Once you know the context, it is very easy to see why Paul was saying what he was saying and how powerful his words were. He is saying that there is ONE God and that this ONE God created everything, does not live in temples, and does not *need* anything. This is the exact opposite of all their "gods". God is perfectly complete without us and needs nothing from us. That makes it all the more amazing that he reaches out to us, loves us, and wants to know us and be in a relationship with us! It's not because he needs us – it's a gift to us because we so need Him!!!
- Ask each person to share something for which they would like prayed. Close in prayer (can be led by one person or each person can pray), specifically including everyone's prayer requests. Thank God for being SO AWESOME and for still wanting to know us; thank God for Paul's life of service to Jesus; and thank God for the writings of the Bible so we can know what happened to people right after Jesus's life on earth.
- Finish by singing the song again!

*Optional activity during the week: Fill in the Blank*

*by Dana Twichell*

**Previous Weeks' Lessons:**

[August 16, 2020 – Life and Breath Part 1](#)

[August 9, 2020 – Faith Part 2](#)

[August 2, 2020 – Faith Part 1](#)

[July 26, 2020 – Call to Me Part 2](#)

[July 19, 2020 – Call to Me Part 1](#)

[July 12, 2020 – In My Father's House](#)

[July 5, 2020 - Go](#)

[June 28, 2020 – Do What It Says](#)

[June 21, 2020 – Servant of All](#)

[June 14, 2020 - Trust](#)

[May 31, 2020 - Young](#)

[May 24, 2020 – Word of God](#)

[May 17, 2020 – More Than Conquerors](#)

[May 10, 2020 – The Light of the World](#)

[May 3, 2020 – The Good Song](#)

[April 26, 2020 – The Word of the Lord](#)

[April 19, 2020 – Never Be Shaken](#)

[April 12, 2020 – Jesus Christ is Lord](#)

[April 5, 2020 – Out of the Mud](#)

[March 29, 2020 - Treasure](#)

[March 22, 2020 – Do Not Be Anxious](#)