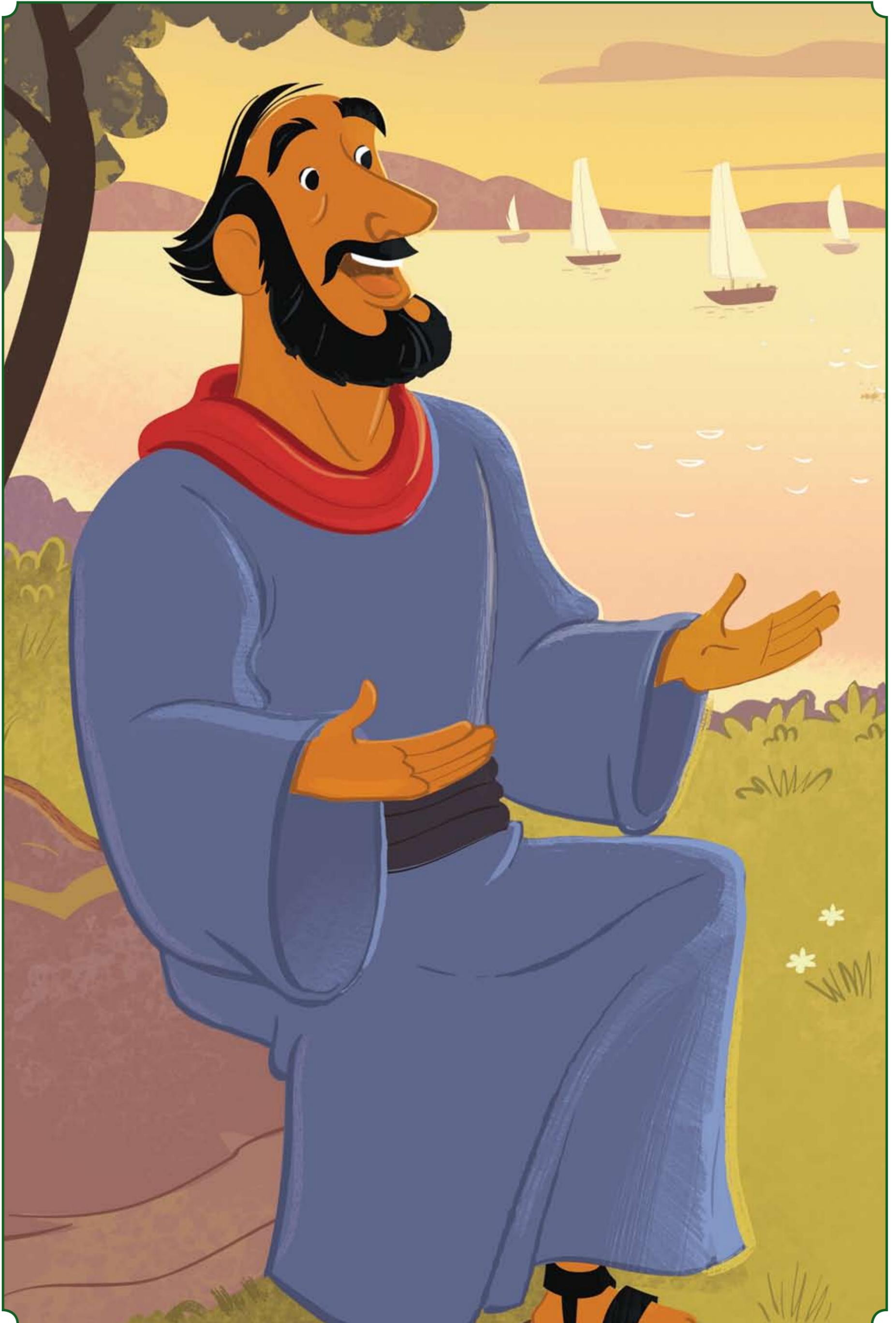


Paul Preached in Athens



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Looking around him, Paul was so sad. So many people were worshipping false idols! Idols are things people think are a god, but they aren't. It made Paul sad because he wanted them to know the truth. He wanted them to know that Yahweh, the God of the Bible, is the only true God and He raised Jesus, His Son, from the dead. But, Paul was glad he could tell them the truth about God and Jesus!

Everywhere Paul went, he tried to earn the right to tell people about Jesus. In the synagogue and in the market, Paul shared the gospel (the good news about Jesus). Now he was in a place called Athens. Athens was an important city in Greece. As Paul spoke, some listened with interest, but others thought he was speaking nonsense. A few people invited Paul to speak at the Aeropagus, a place in Athens where people gathered to hear new teachings.

“Men of Athens,” Paul began, “I see that you are very religious.” Paul had seen the many places of worship around the city. The Athenians even had an altar “to the unknown god.” Paul told them that the “unknown god” was really Yahweh, the God of the Bible, who had made the heavens and earth. God is too great to live in temples or buildings people build to give Him something.

Paul told them that God wasn't far away, but was close because He desires a relationship with people everywhere. In fact, Paul told them that because we are created in His image, we shouldn't think that an idol made of gold or silver can be a real god. Paul encouraged the Athenians to find out more about God.

Then Paul told those gathered to repent because Jesus had died for their sins but God had raised Him from the dead. Some mocked Paul because they couldn't believe that Jesus had risen from the grave, but some people wanted to hear more. Some even believed in Jesus.

That day salvation came to many in Athens. Paul shared God's grief over those who worshipped false gods. Like Paul, we should be sad when we see people who don't know Jesus. All people can know that Yahweh, the God of the Bible, is the only true God and He raised Jesus, His Son, from the dead. We don't have to worship idols or the work of our hands. We can actually know the God of the Bible through Jesus!