

**Engaging
the Apathetic**



& Uninterested

**I
DON'T
CARE.**

Steve Osmond



There's no evidence...it's all blind faith!



Vet #1

- Strong opinions
- Questions & objections

Approach:

- Ask good question!

I don't care...it's irrelevant to me!



Vet #2

- Didn't care
- No questions or objections

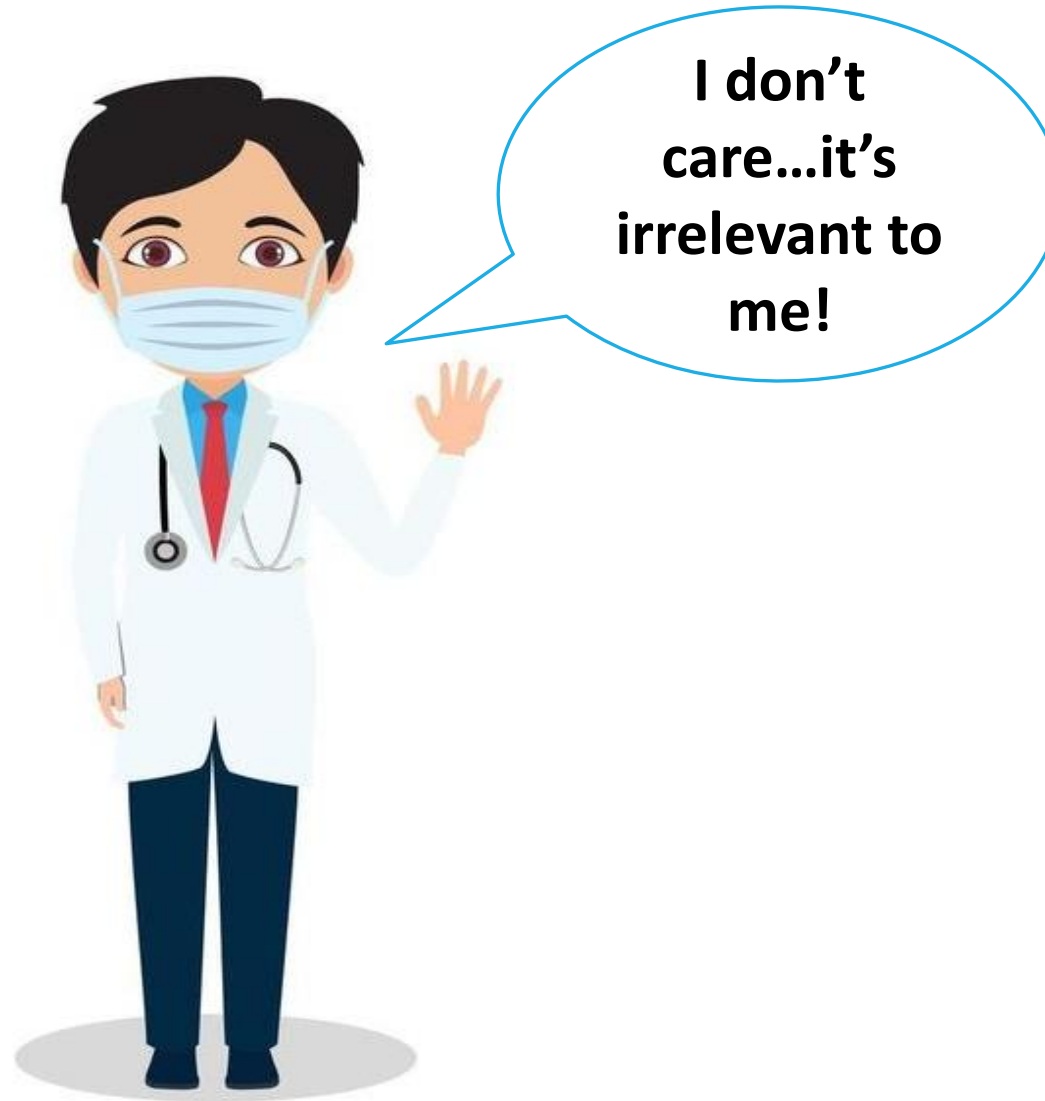
Approach:

- ???

- Didn't care
- No questions or objections

Approach:

- ???



Vet #2

What do you mean by that?

Why do you think that?

Have You Ever
Wondered?



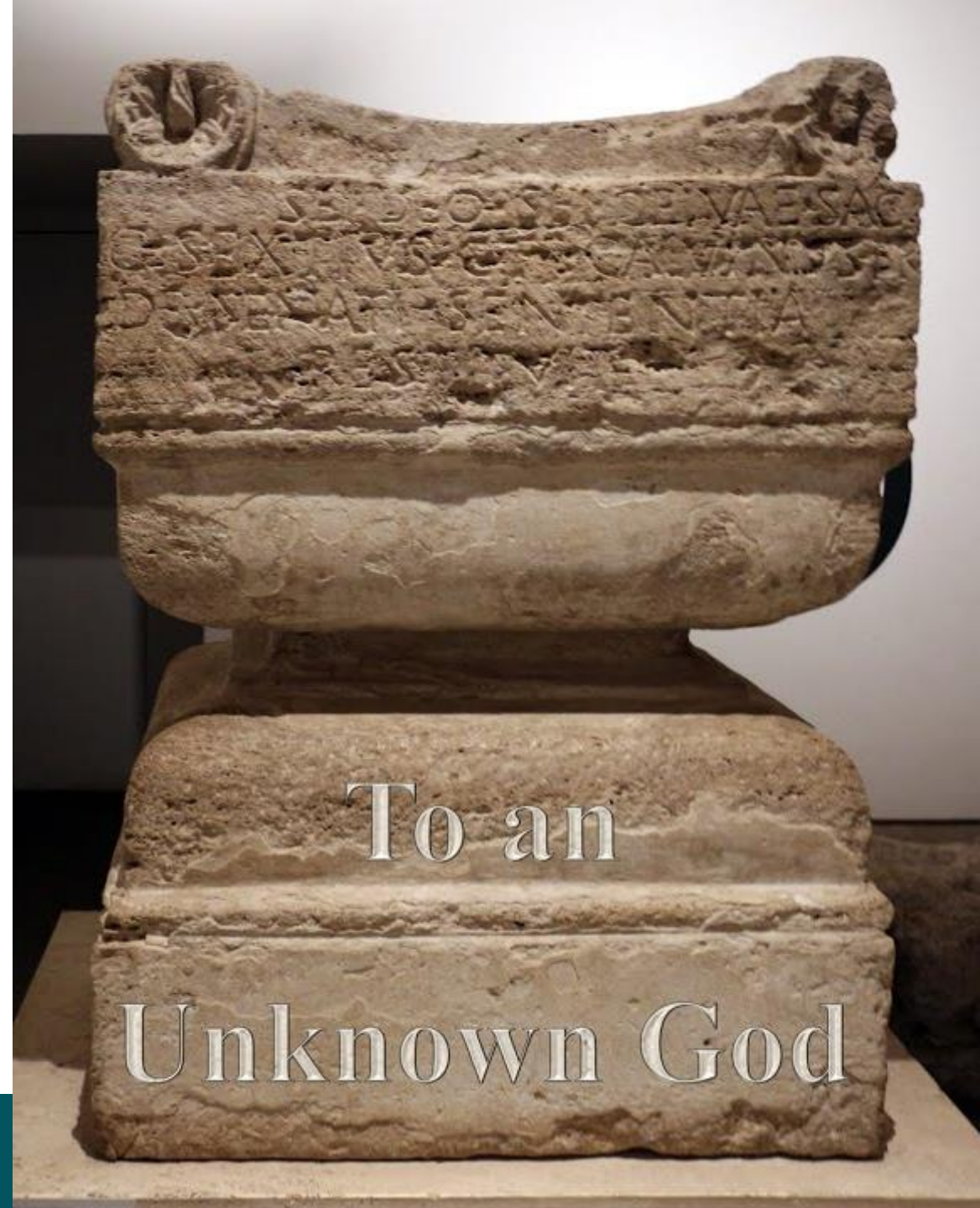


[Paul] was greatly distressed to see that the city was **full of idols**. So he **reasoned** in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there...

Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "*May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?*"



Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are **very religious**. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found **an altar with this inscription: *to an unknown god***. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and **this is what I am going to proclaim to you...**



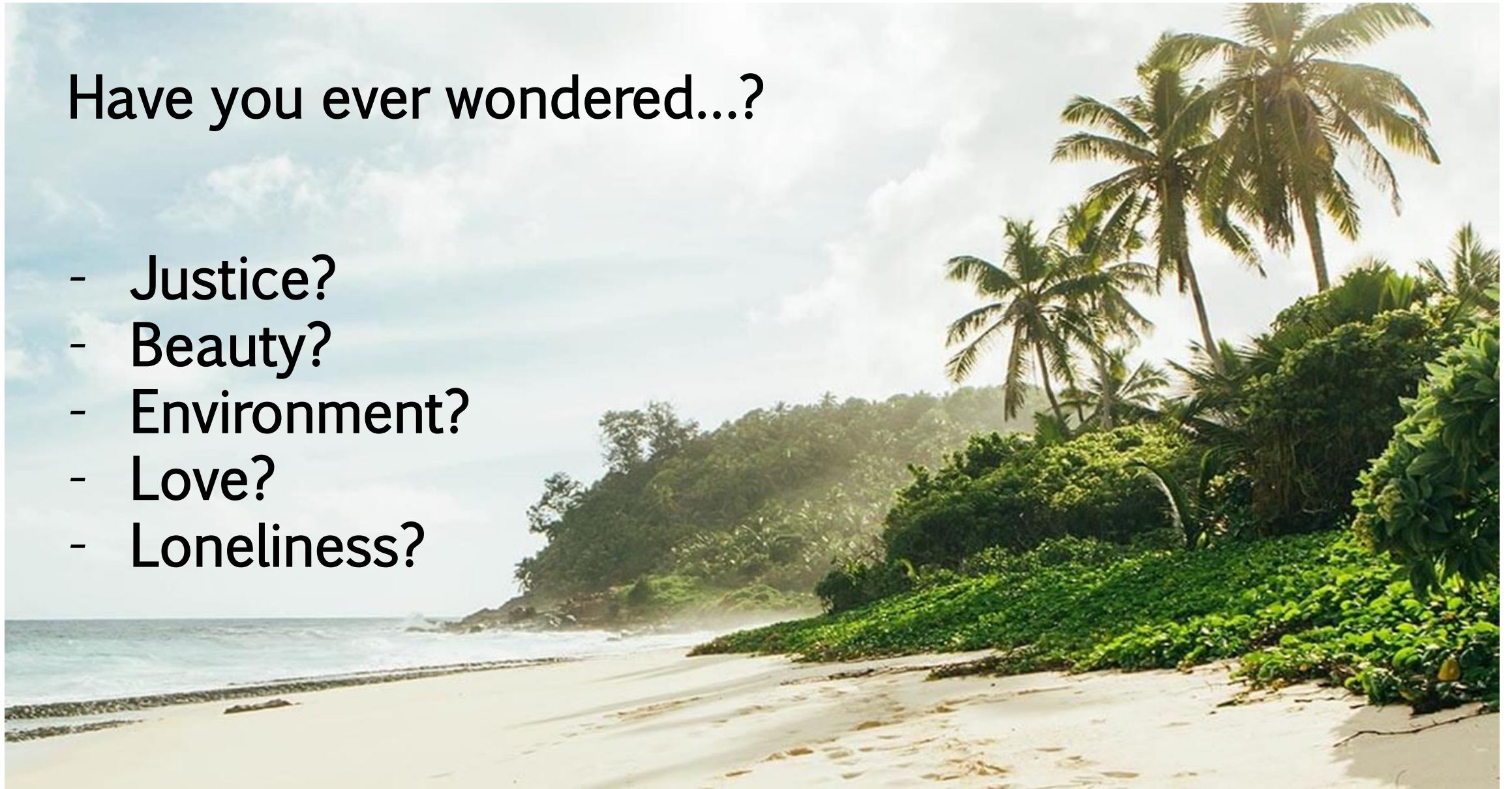
Lessons from Acts 17

- Go where people are
- Take time to listen & understand
- Find points of contact



Have you ever wondered...?

- Justice?
- Beauty?
- Environment?
- Love?
- Loneliness?



Free will?





**“Love is just a
chemical...”**

“In my early twenties I didn’t really know what I thought of the Big Story that the universe is telling ... There seemed to be an infinite number of religions, philosophies and conspiracy theories which sought to account for how and why the universe is as it is, and I wasn’t sure which of those Big Stories out there was the real deal. But I did know something about my ‘Little Story’. I knew that I believed in Love. Not just love, but unconditional Love. I wanted to be loved without fear of rejection; loved for who I was and not based on what I did ... I believed in Justice ... I believed in Purpose ... I believed in Freedom ... I believed in Beauty ... I believed that death felt unnatural to observe, no matter how many times I observed it.” – Andy Kind, *Hidden in Plain Sight*



“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”

– C.S. Lewis

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Discussion Time: 5 Minutes

Think of a friend, colleague, family member who is disinterested in faith: what things do you think they care about most deeply? What kind of wondering questions could you ask them gently try to nudge conversations in a spiritual direction?

Extra Conversation Resources

The Art of Conversation

1) Be prepared!

- Pray. Think about questions they may ask. Think about what you can talk about with them. Don't wing it!

2) Be multilingual

- How are you able to *connect* with those you want to reach?
- What are they interested in? What do they enjoy? What do they care about?

The Art of Conversation

3) Set a goal

- A goal to have a specific conversation
- Get accountability

4) Be question ready

- Jesus asked questions...a lot!
- Bridge the gap from 'shooting the breeze' to Jesus.
- Move toward deeper conversations without being threatening.

The Art of Conversation

4) Be question ready

- What was the best / worst part of your week?
- What's been on your mind most recently?
- How would your best friends describe you?
- What were you like as a child? Are you different now? In what ways?
- Whom in your family are you most alike / different from? In what ways?
- Who has had the most significant influence on your life? Why?
- Did you grow up in a religious home?
- Have you ever had experiences in your life that made you think there might be a God?

The Art of Conversation

5) Be response ready

- Questions are a gift and an opportunity to share something about who God is and what He has done.

The Art of Conversation

Example:

Person A question = How was your weekend?

Person B response 1= Fine, thanks. (conversation stopper)

Person B response 2= Really good. Saw some friends on Saturday, and went to church on Sunday, which is always a highlight for me. Do you ever go to church?

Person A: No, I'm not religious.

Person B: I never used to be either, but I was invited years ago and found it incredibly meaningful and a wonderful community to be part of. It would be great if you came along sometime to check it out.

The Art of Conversation

6) Be testimony ready

- Sharing the faith is often about finding Christ at the intersection between our own story and those of others.
- Sometimes we find evangelism hard because we don't really actually know our stories very well.
- We all have innumerable testimonies we can tell about how God has worked in our lives

The Art of Conversation

6) Be testimony ready

- Try find a theme I which you can understand your testimony, then reflect on that and how God has worked in that area
- Ie:
 - Guilt, pride, worry, dreams & aspirations, relationships, family, forgiveness...

The Art of Conversation

- 7) Be prayer ready
- 8) Be good stewards of conversation
- 9) Be invitational

The Art of Conversation

Group Exercises:

- 1) Think about the 'wondering' question – list 3 things you think are relevant in your context and how you could use them to open up a spiritual conversation.
- 2) Come up with 5 of your own conversation starter questions.
- 3) Share your testimony in 5 minutes around a particular aspect you resonate with (guilt, pride, worry, dreams & aspirations, relationships, family, forgiveness...)