Jonathan McKee – "Opening up the doors of dialogue in your home, your community... your world" Acts 17: 16, 17 Sermon Based Questions – April 24, 2016

Introduction:

- 1. How many hours a day do you spend on some electronic device?
- 2. Jonathan talked about two extremes in the way parents respond to their children using technology: either they are overly permissive parents, or an overly protective parent. Where do you fall on that spectrum?

Understanding:

- 1. Jonathan pointed out that ten different sets of parents would come up with ten different approaches to parenting and handling technology. What did he say was the one key ingredient of all the best approaches?
- 2. Read Deuteronomy 6:7. What does this verse tell us about how much time parents should be spend instructing their children?
- 3. Jonathan said the most common parental response to their teen's use of technology is 'overreaction'. What's the danger of this approach? How do children typically respond to this type of response?
- 4. Scan Acts 17. In Thessalonica and Berea, as in most places, Paul makes his contacts in the synagogues and speaks almost exclusively from Scripture. How does his ministry in Athens differ from this?
- 5. Read Acts 17: 16, 17 and think about Paul's response to the local religious practices he encountered.
 - a. What was Paul's reaction when he became distressed with the idolatry he saw in Athens? How did he respond?
 - b. <u>Where</u> did Paul respond to the Athenians? In what ways can we follow this example when trying to reach others?
- 6. In Athens Paul begins to tell them about the living God with an inscription from one of their altars—"to an unknown god." What are some "points of truth" from Paul's speech in Acts 17:24-31 that you can use to communicate the gospel to those in your world?

Application:

- 7. Today's passage tells us that Paul was distressed at what he saw in his city (i.e. idols) and that moved him to reach out to the people around him ("so he reasoned...with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks.") Is there something in your community that distresses you, and how can that drive you to reach out to those around you? How can we turn our tendency toward "overreaction" into "interaction"?
- 8. Jonathan challenged us to turn our 'over-reaction' to 'interaction'. This week look for opportunities to interact with those that may disagree with you, or are struggling, or questioning their faith.