

**Acts of the Holy Spirit #18, Gospel Green-Thumbs**  
**Acts 17, Week of Nov 19, 2017**  
**Bay Park Life Groups – Participant’s Guide**

Q → What is your experience with farming? or gardening? In what capacity are you or were involved? Do you still make a hobby or practice out of gardening today?

*read Luke 8:4-15*

Q → How does the illustration of gardening clarify what evangelism is for you, personally?

Q → Do you think you have a Green-Thumb when it comes to Gospel gardening? Why or why not?

*read Acts 17:16-34*

**First — Surveying the Land**

Q → Let’s take a moment to reflect and “survey the land” and “till the soil” where we are seeking to plant the Gospel right now! What are important observations we need to make about each of the following when it comes to sharing the Gospel? What things do you think the church needs to learn more about to effectively plant the Gospel in hearts?

- in North American culture
- in Canada
- in Kingston

**Second — Sweat Buckets**

Q → Paul’s message was very misunderstood by the Athenians, but he didn’t give up! In what ways do you think you are commonly misunderstood when you try to plant the Gospel message in other’s souls? What can we do to combat these misunderstandings or false perceptions?

**Third — Study the Soil Composition**

Q → In the sermon we talked about seeking a balance between relevance and counter-culturalism. In what ways did Paul tweak or adjust his Gospel message to make it relevant for the Athenians? In what way was he counter-cultural?

Q → Create a list of words you would use to describe North American culture today. This is the soil in which we’re seeking to plant the Gospel.

**Fourth — Sow Appropriate Seeds**

Q → Try to remember from the sermon (or pick out from v22-31) the “tombits of the Gospel” [bite-size truths] Paul provided to the Athenians?

**Q** → What are the “timbits of the Gospel” that are counter-cultural today that we should not sacrifice when trying to be relevant?

**Fifth — Surrender the Growth**

**Q** → What do we learn from these two passages (the Athenian’s response to Paul’s message + what Paul writes in 1 Corinthians) about gospel gardening? Do you find this is hard to accept and practice?