



growing courageous for Jesus | Wagga Rd, Aug-Sep 2023

## God is the one and only, who is sovereign over all, for our good

*This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.*

### PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

*The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.*

#### Pray & read Isaiah 45

What strikes you about this reading?

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Do you have any questions about this reading?

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How does this reading make you feel?

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What do you think in response to this reading?

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What will you do in response to this reading?

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## **WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time**

### **read Isaiah 45**

- What stands out to you from this reading? What does it say about other so-called gods?

### **read Acts 17.16-34**

- Can you see any similarity between Athens back then and our own society now? What do you know of some of the idols and religions in our own *spiritual marketplaces*? (v16-23)

- What does Paul say is different about the true and living God who was *UNKNOWN* to the Athenians? What makes him unique? (v24-28)

- Why should people not remain in their ignorance, following man-made gods? What is the proof of the one and only, true and living God? (v29-34)

### **Think it through:**

- How does Paul engage with/begin with what the Athenians know and believe? Do you think his tactic is to argue against what they believe and practice, or to present something new to consider? Why do you think he does what he does?
- Discuss why it takes courage to speak about the resurrection and judgement: What gives you the courage to guard the good news about Jesus and the resurrection?
- Sometimes you might meet people who think there are many gods or many paths to the one God. How might you respond to this with the good news about Jesus? What responses might you expect?

### **PRAY!**