



Discussion Guide

Greece: Episodes 1-3

Drive-Thru History Discussion Guide, Greece: Episodes 1-3

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How to Use the Video

The *Drive-Thru History* series is a fast, fun way to learn the facts about how our civilization came to be. You'll discover how Christianity and other world views have shaped cultures and countries—and your life. Here are some ways to watch Dave Stotts' goofy globe-trotting—and get the most from it.

- *By yourself.* View the video. Then ponder the questions in this guide.
- *As a family activity.* Watch with your middle school kids and older, one episode at a time. Choose the questions you think will best engage your family, and discuss them together.
- *With a youth group.* Most middle school and high school students, as well as college students, are introduced to historical figures and events in their classes—but aren't getting the whole story. Show the video when they get together, following up with questions from this guide.
- *As a homeschool project.* Supplement your curriculum by viewing the video and adapting the questions to fit the ages of your children. The presentation is recommended for students in sixth grade and above.
- *With a group of adults.* Let the video and study guide stimulate discussion in your small group, class, or neighborhood gathering.

Ready to hit the accelerator? It's time for *Drive-Thru History*!



EPISODE ONE

FunFacts

- ◉ Ever heard somebody say, "It's Greek to me!"? The phrase, which implies that something is gibberish, came from a Medieval Latin proverb meaning "It is Greek; it cannot be read." The phrase probably is most famous for appearing in William Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*.
- ◉ The ancient Greeks didn't have much use for napkins. They usually just wiped their hands on pieces of bread, which were later given to the dogs.
- ◉ Ancient Greeks didn't have hairspray or gel—but that didn't stop them from having elaborate hairstyles. They used scented waxes and lotions to arrange their hair.
- ◉ The notion of "kissing beneath the mistletoe" came from the Greek festival of Saturnalia. Nobody knows where Dave Stotts' notion of kissing himself in the mirror came from.

To Think and Talk About

1. Greece's best-known poet, Homer, is famous for what two epic sagas?
 - a. *Moby Dick* and *Arabian Nights*
 - b. *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*
 - c. *Ulysses* and *Ben-Hur*
 - d. *Finding Nemo* and *The Incredibles*
2. The Oracle at Delphi was used for what?
 - a. Spa treatments and saunas
 - b. Vacation trips
 - c. The dwelling place of the pagan god Apollo
 - d. A psychic hotline for the ancient world
3. Like those who traveled to the Oracle at Delphi, many people today still pay big bucks to have someone tell them their future. Why are people fascinated with this subject? What might be the downside of knowing what will happen to you tomorrow? Next year? Thirty years from now?
4. Legend claims that Apollo killed a giant snake-like goddess named Pythos. Can you think of a snake whose name is similar to Pythos?
5. The Pythia of Delphi breathed in narcotic vapors before babbling prophecies. The book of Acts mentions a slave girl who told fortunes. Paul cast an evil spirit out of her and she was no longer able to predict the future. Do you think there's a connection? Why or why not?
6. Name three movies, books, games, or TV shows that play with the idea of predicting the future. Do you think these are harmless or dangerous? Why or why not?

Check out these Bible verses and find out God's view of people who claim to possess powers to tell the future.

- a. 1 Chronicles 10:13-14
- b. Acts 16:16-18
- c. Ecclesiastes 8:7
- d. Deuteronomy 18:10-12

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Would memorizing this verse come in handy when you feel anxious about your future? Why or why not?

7. In each of the following categories, can you think of similarities and differences between the ancient Olympics and the Olympic games today?

- a. Penalties
- b. Prizes
- c. Events
- d. Attire

Can you describe the ancient game *pankration*? What were the rules? Do you think you'd like to play it?

8. The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race (1 Cor. 9:24; 2 Tim. 4:7). How do you think the Greeks would have reacted to that? Why? How would you compare the Christian life to sports (teamwork, discipline, etc.)?

9. Name at least two ways in which God seemed to work through ancient Greece to spread the gospel. (Example: Alexander the Great left a legacy of common language, making it possible for Paul to share the good news wherever he traveled.) How might He work through you?

10. Alexander the Great won countless battles; his conquests are legendary. In some ways, he was a hero to his people. Who would you say are today's heroes? Why?

What qualities do you look for in a hero?

11. Which of the following most impressed you about ancient Greece?

- a. Writers like Homer paved the way for modern literature.
- b. The Olympics originated there.
- c. Ancient Greece played an important role in God's plan to share the gospel.
- d. Greece is only about the size of New York, yet it influenced history in ways that are still affecting the world.



EPISODE TWO

FunFacts

- ◉ The only full-scale replica of the Parthenon is in Nashville, Tennessee. Except for the one in Dave Stotts' basement.
- ◉ Meat wasn't big on the typical ancient Greek menu. It was mostly used for religious sacrifices. In fact, one of the concerns of the early Christians was whether or not it was wrong to eat meat that had been offered to pagan gods!
- ◉ Nodding your head in Greece can mess things up if you aren't familiar with the culture. Nodding upwards means "no"!
- ◉ Ever wonder where the yo-yo came from? It may have been invented in China, but the first evidence of the yo-yo comes from Greece. It was a toy made of wood, metal, and clay.

To Think and Talk About

1. In ancient Greece, *acropolis* was defined as a “high place.” An acropolis stood out like a landmark.

Supposing you have better directional skills than Dave Stotts, where are some “high places” you’d like to visit in your own country? Other countries? Why?

2. The Parthenon is one of the most widely recognized structures in the world. What are two ways in which it was designed to deceive viewers into thinking it was larger than it really was?
 - a. Location and lighting
 - b. Slightly bulging columns and curving foundation
 - c. Floor-length mirrors and oversized tapestries
 - d. Putting a “World’s Biggest Parthenon” sign out front; surrounding it with really short people
3. In what order did these great thinkers introduce their ideas and influence society?
 - a. Aristotle-Plato-Socrates
 - b. Plato-Socrates-Aristotle
 - c. Socrates-Plato-Aristotle
 - d. Socrates-Aristotle-Plato
4. Ancient Greece is considered to be the birthplace of philosophy. Greek philosophers introduced ideas like free thought, open questioning, and critical thinking. How have these ideas affected you, your school, government, legal system and church?

What would life be like if people in your country were never allowed to question those in authority? Are you encouraged to question at school, at church, and at home? How do you feel about that?

5. Aristotle, Plato’s student, disagreed with his teacher in many ways. Can you name a few significant differences that separated Aristotle’s beliefs from those of Plato?
 - a. Aristotle argued that evidence, not popular opinion, is the determining factor of truth.

- b. Aristotle believed that absolute truth can be known through observing and cataloging information.
 - c. Aristotle preferred Tater Tots to fries.
 - d. Both a and b
6. What was Paul's religious position before becoming a strong advocate of Christianity? If a friend of yours made a similar turnaround, what would your reaction be?

Look over the following facts concerning Paul (formerly Saul). Numbering from 1 to 5, place these facts in the correct order.

- _____ Paul traveled all over the Mediterranean, spreading the gospel.
- _____ Almost overnight, Paul turned into one of those he had persecuted—he became a Christian.
- _____ Saul was looking for a Messiah who would be a political leader, someone to deliver the Jews. He rejected the idea of Jesus Christ as the Messiah. He sought to persecute Christians.
- _____ Saul's life took a 180-degree turn when he was blinded on the road to Damascus. His name was changed from Saul to Paul.
- _____ Saul was a Roman citizen and devout Jew who became a zealous Pharisee.

Acts 9 tells the story of Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. Read through the chapter and learn the whole story. If Jesus had already ascended into heaven, why do you think He asked Paul "Why are you persecuting Me?"

7. When Paul reached Athens he found a well-educated and sophisticated city, but it was full of idols. Paul stood on Mars Hill and preached the gospel to the people of Athens. How did they react? Read Acts 17:32-34 to find the answer.
- a. They mocked him
 - b. They were unsure about what he told them
 - c. They believed him
 - d. They ran from the city
 - e. All of the above
 - f. Answers a-c

How does your approach to sharing your faith compare with Paul's? How do you feel when you think about telling others about Jesus?

8. Mars Hill was a place for people to discuss and explore new ideas in ancient Athens. Where do people get together to discuss ideas today? (Examples: the mall, the Internet, a school club, etc.)
9. Paul was persecuted for his faith—even stoned at one time and left for dead. Consider modern-day people like Cassie Bernall, who died in the Columbine High School shooting after confessing she believed in God. What would you do in a situation like that?

How can each of these verses encourage you to share your faith?

- a. Mark 8:35: "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."
 - b. Romans 1:16: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."
 - c. John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
 - d. Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - e. Luke 19:10: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."
10. Which of the following statements best captures what you will take away from this DVD?
- a. Paul was beheaded for his faith; Socrates was forced to drink poison because of his radical views. Is there anything I feel that passionate about?
 - b. Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living" because he believed in the constant quest for truth; yet he rarely was able to find the answers to his questions. I'm glad that as Christians, we find the truth in Christ.
 - c. King Pericles had the Parthenon designed to look perfect by being made imperfectly. I wonder if that technique is still used today.
 - d. Dave Stotts really needs to buy a map.
 - e. Other _____





EPIISODE THREE

FunFacts

- ◉ Think you have to go all the way to Greece to tour Corinth? Not if you live in America. Try Corinth, Texas and Corinth, Mississippi.
- ◉ Ancient Greeks believed a fever meant you had too much blood. Your arm would be cut until you bled, in order to reduce the amount of blood in your body. Leeches were also used to suck out the excess blood.
- ◉ In 1972, Blue Ribbon Sports was renamed Nike for the Greek winged goddess of victory.
- ◉ There are many myths concerning the origin of the Olympics in Greece, but the first recorded games were in 776 B.C. The name of the official supplier of goat hide shoelaces to the 776 B.C. Olympics has been lost in antiquity.

To Think and Talk About

1. If you were to make a list of the pros and cons of ancient Corinth's location and geography, what would it look like? Which side would dominate the other?

From the video's description, can you define the term *isthmus*?

- a. Island
 - b. Ferry
 - c. Strip of land connecting two larger land masses
 - d. Word that makes you sound like you're hissing with a lisp
2. The Christians in Corinth had to struggle to escape the immorality of their culture. How is this still happening today?

Imagine you are a member of the First Church of Corinth. How would you feel about being outnumbered by those who don't believe in Christ? Do you ever feel that way now? If so, when?

3. Paul met strong resistance from many Jewish leaders in Corinth. Why did they reject his message? What kind of messiah were they looking for?

Can you think of some modern-day *bema* seats?

4. To eat or not to eat? Which of these Bible passages contains Paul's answer to the Corinthian church's question about meat that had been sacrificed to pagan gods? (*There may be more than one answer.*)

- a. 2 Corinthians 4:5-9
- b. Colossians 3:15-17
- c. 1 Corinthians 10:18-23
- d. 1 Corinthians 8:4-13

5. What was the ancient road Diolkos often used for?

- a. Dragging boats across the Isthmus to the Aegean Sea
- b. Commerce and trade
- c. Military base for Grecian troops
- d. Local high-school parades

True or False:

The word *Diolkos* means “steadfast rock.”

6. Who and what should be credited with the success of the Corinth Canal?
 - a. Nero’s golden shovel
 - b. Alfred Nobel’s invention of dynamite
 - c. Julius Caesar’s brilliant design
 - d. Capodistrias’ 40 million francs

7. Dave Stotts pointed out several pieces of evidence for the accuracy of biblical history. Which of the following is most convincing to you?
 - a. Ancient limestone with engraved menorahs proving early Jewish presence in Corinth.
 - b. Erastus Stone—pavement stone paid for by Erastus, Corinth city treasurer. This same Erastus was mentioned in Paul’s letter to the Romans.
 - c. Paul was taken before Gallio, Roman proconsul in Corinth. An inscription was discovered that named Gallio as proconsul of the Roman region of Achaia, territory which included the city of Corinth.
 - d. The Emperor Nero who broke ground for the Corinth Canal with the golden shovel is the same Nero mentioned in Paul’s writings.

Let’s say you’re talking with a friend who doesn’t believe the Bible is true. How could you use these facts to encourage him or her to reconsider? Can you think of other evidence for the Bible’s accuracy? Maybe you could share this DVD with a friend!

8. Greek legends and myths are often the basis for entertaining stories. How many books, movies, songs, and video games can you describe that have been based on the Greek gods? (Examples: *Hercules*, *Till We Have Faces*, etc.)

9. Match the following according to occupation:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ Erastus | a. Canal Vista boat pilot |
| _____ Gallio | b. Corinth city treasurer |
| _____ Nero | c. Roman proconsul in Greece |
| _____ George | d. Emperor who had Paul beheaded |
| _____ Aphrodite | e. Greek goddess |

10. Which of these statements best matches what you learned from this DVD?
- a. Living in ancient Corinth sounds a little like living in Las Vegas.
 - b. Learning about the intersections of historical fact and biblical truths helps strengthen my faith.
 - c. It's amazing that while the temples to the pagan gods in ancient Corinth are now just ruins, the letters Paul wrote to the Corinthian church are still being read all over the world.
 - d. I want to bungee jump off the Corinth Canal.
 - e. Other_____

