



WEEKLY BRIEFING FOR CHURCH LEADERS · ISSUE NO. 2 · SEPTEMBER 24, 2026



SITES & STORIES

“Ancient Stages: Walk Where Biblical History Comes to Life”

What if your congregation could stand in the very theaters where the world of the New Testament once gathered?

From the grand stages of Caesarea Maritima and Ephesus to the historic theater at Athens, these Roman structures were far more than architectural wonders. They were gathering places — where culture, public life, and history unfolded, and where the earliest church took root in the middle of it all. Many of these theaters still stand today, inviting travelers to experience the remarkable connection between biblical history and the world that shaped it.

Our travel partner ETS — The Leader in Faith-Based Travel passed along a reminder of this recently, and it is one worth sharing. Through our Journeys of Paul itineraries, your congregation can walk among these same ruins — exploring ancient cities, standing where Paul stood, and discovering the historical settings that shaped the spread of Christianity.

[See the Itinerary](#)

Story inspiration courtesy of ETS — The Leader in Faith-Based Travel, shared with permission.

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION

"Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious."

ACTS 17:22

Paul did not wait for Athens to come to him. He walked its streets, noticed what its people already believed, and used common ground — even an altar "to the unknown god" — as a doorway to the gospel. The Areopagus was not a sanctuary. It was a public square, built for argument and debate, and Paul stood in the middle of it and preached Christ anyway.

Standing on that same hill does not make the gospel any truer than it already is. But it does something to a group of believers to see the actual stones where an apostle looked pagan Athens in the eye and was not ashamed. That is the gift these ancient stages still offer — not a holier version of the text, but a clearer picture of the courage it took to first proclaim it.

FEATURED JOURNEY

Journeys of Paul in Greece

Greece · Around \$3,795 per person

This nine-day journey traces the Apostle Paul's second and third missionary journeys through Greece — from his address at the Areopagus in Athens to the church he planted in Philippi and the synagogue where he taught in Thessaloniki. Days combine guided teaching at historic sites — including the ancient theaters at Delphi and Corinth — with dedicated time for group devotionals and reflection.

As with every itinerary we build, this one is fully customized in dates, sites, and pricing for your congregation. The estimate above reflects an itinerary similar to the one we would design together.

[See Full Itinerary & Pricing](#)

ALSO FORMING FOR 2027

Navigating the Early Church Cruise

With guest speaker Dr. Brent Strawn · June 13, 2027 · Mediterranean · from \$5,998

Teaching at sea, with the harbors Paul wrote to as your shore days.

Holy Land Classic

2027 departures · Israel · from \$3,798

Galilee, Nazareth, the Jordan River, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, the Garden Tomb.

Holy Land & Jordan

2027 departures · Israel and Jordan · from \$4,398

Adds Petra, Mount Nebo, and the wilderness years to the Classic route.

PARTNERING WITH YOUR CHURCH

Your church should not have to become a travel agency.

Partnering with us costs your church nothing. We carry the planning, the vendor coordination, the registrations, the payment tracking, and the questions from families — so your group leader can stay where he belongs: teaching and shepherding your people, before, during, and after the journey.

When your group reaches a qualifying size, your group leader travels free, and a portion of the proceeds returns to your church. We will walk you through the particulars in person.

Book a Free Pastoral Consultation

No cost. No obligation. A conversation about your congregation, not a pitch.

BRIEFLY

- The Journeys of Paul in Greece itinerary is fully customizable in dates, sites, and pricing for your congregation. Take a look at the full nine-day route and let us know if you'd like a sample price estimate built for your church specifically.

Grateful to serve alongside you,

Brad Kirkham

Co-Founder, Eternal Pilgrimages Alliance
Cruise Planners — Faith-Based Travel

Read this issue online, and browse the archive:

eternalpilgrimagesalliance.org/newsletter-2026-09-24.html