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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, May 21, 2017

6th Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Acts 17:22-31](#) [**Summary:** *Paul, Mars Hill, and the Unknown God*]

Supplies Needed: A brown paper bag with some sort of candy in it that isn't too unhealthy (like individually wrapped life-savers). Or, if you want to make it fancier, find a box to put the candy in and then wrap the box like it is a present. The lesson is written as if a wrapped box is being used.

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- *[show box]* Can you tell me what this is? *(a box, a present, a gift)*
- And, can you tell me what you think is inside this gift box? *[let the guessing begin]*
- Why do you think those things might (or might not) be inside this box? *(because of its shape, maybe because of the time of year it is, maybe because of the color of the box...)*
- Why do you think it is so hard to guess what is inside the box? *(because we can't see what's in the box and there is no one to tell us what is in it or give us hints about what is inside the box).*
- Simon says "Shout "AAAAAAAHHHHH" " [**Note:** *Be sure to move the mic away from your face AND the kids when shouting "aaaahhh"*]

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- So in today's story, we hear about the Apostle Paul, and he's in Athens, Greece. And while he's there, he sees this monument (like a statue) that says, "To the unknown god."
- What the Greeks were saying was that they thought that there might be a god who existed who they knew nothing about.
- The Greeks were saying, "There's probably a god who we don't know anything about."

- Which is a lot like how we thought about this gift box: There's probably something in it, but we don't know that for sure, and if there is, we don't know what might be in it.
- So Paul uses their curiosity about the unknown to tell them about the God we know.
- The God who created everything we know.
- The God who gave life to all that's living.
- Paul tells them that we are the sons and daughters of this God and that because we belong to God, God cares about us and about what we do.
- In other words, Paul told the Greeks what was in the box.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- A little bit later in the story, we hear that some of the Greeks laughed at what Paul said and didn't believe him.
- Other Greeks said, "We'd like to talk to you some more about this God."
- But most importantly, there were Greeks who believed what Paul said.
- They received the gift that Paul was offering to them.
- So, just like Paul helped the Greeks in Athens know more about God, we too, can help each other know God even better than we already do.
- And the good news for today is that whenever we share what we know about God, it's like unwrapping a gift and sharing it with the people around us.
- Shall we see what's in the box?
- [unwrap box and take out the type of candy that you put in it.]
- It looks like there's some candy in the box. You can all take a piece and then take other pieces to share and pass out to the congregation.
- But first ... let's pray – this is a repeat-after-me prayer (see CLOSING Prayer)

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you that learning about you...

Thank you that learning about you...

...is like receiving a gift ...

...is like receiving a gift ...

...that we can share with those around us.

...that we can share with those around us.

Thank you and Amen.