

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for May 14, 2023

6th Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year A

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

**Supplies Needed:** A gift 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).*
- *[Repeat the three steps]:* "Simon says "Clap your hands" ; Simon says "Stomp your feet" ; Simon says "Shout AAAHHHH"

**TELL** (a.k.a. [The Freeway](#))

- In today's story, we hear about an apostle - an apostle is someone who has learned from Jesus and then teaches others what they have learned from Jesus.
- This apostle, Paul, is in Athens, Greece in today's story.
- While he's there, he sees this monument (like a statue) that says, "To the unknown god."
- What this means is that the Greeks were honoring any god who existed but they didn't know about.
- So Paul uses their curiosity and respect 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.
- Other Greeks said, "We'd like to talk to you some more about this God."
- And, most importantly, there were other Greeks who believed what Paul said.

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

- [*Hold up the box*] It's like some of the Greeks chose to receive a gift from Paul.
- Actually, it's more like Paul *unwrapped* the gift so that the people of Athens could see what was inside of it.
- As Paul unwrapped the gift [*start to unwrap / open box and take out the type of candy that you put in it.*], there were new things for the people to learn about and receive that they could then share with others.
- And, if we look in this gift box, let's see if there's something for you to receive and then share with others [*reveal the candy inside the gift box*].
- Oh look! There's some candy in this box! While it's not new information, it is definitely something you can receive and share with others.
- After we pray, let's have each of you take a piece for yourself and then take some other pieces to share and pass out to the congregation as you return to your seats.
- And, as we do that, let's remember the good news of today's story - in the same way Paul helped the Greeks in Athens know more God, we too, can help each other know God (even better than we already do).
- But before we share, let's pray.
- This is a repeat-after-me 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.**