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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for May 17, 2020

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).*

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

- In today's story, we hear about an apostle, Paul, and he's in Athens, Greece.
- While he's there, he sees this monument (like a statue) that says, "To the unknown god."
- In other words, the Greeks were saying honoring any god who existed who they didn't know about.
- 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.

- 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."
- 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 it could be shared with the people around him. Much like this box...
- [*unwrap box and take out the type of candy that you put in it.*]
- Oh look! There's some candy in this box.
- You can all take a piece and then take other pieces to share and pass out to the congregation.
- 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.