

EVERYTHING HAS A
STARTING POINT

CHAPTER ONE | *START*

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAITH

AS CHILDREN, A FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FAITH BEGAN

- Handed to you or pieced together?
- Life experiences, disappointments, joys etc.

BELIEFS BECAME INGRAINED

- God is good
- Say your prayers
- God punishes bad behavior and rewards good. So be good!

GROWN UP FAITH

A GAP BETWEEN OUR EXPERIENCES AND WHAT WE WERE TOLD

- Sometimes adults need a new starting point

TIME TO HIT RESTART

- What if we didn't know anything, where would we start?
- "The Bible Says" was never intended to be the starting point for the Christian faith

DR. LUKE'S TRAVEL JOURNAL

- *Acts 17:16-34* If we aren't beginning with "The Bible says," why are we opening the Bible?
 - At the time of the events we are reading about, there was no Bible. So, Paul will show us how to talk with others without using the Bible, speaking from history.
 - All of the writings we know as The Bible were not together until around 200 AD. Paul was in Athens around 50 AD, 20 years after the events of Jesus.
 - Where did Paul get his info? Paul lived with and learned from the eyewitness apostles, Peter, John, James and others. Our text is the travel journal of Dr. Luke who was with Paul.

PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

“While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there.”

PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

“He also had a debate with some of the EPICURUREAN and STOIC philosophers.”

PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

“When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, “What’s this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he’s picked up?” Others said, “He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods.”

PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

“Then they took him to the high council of the city. “Come and tell us about this new teaching,” they said. “You are saying some rather strange things, and we want to know what it’s all about.” (It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.)



PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

So Paul, standing before the council addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it:

‘To an Unknown God.’

PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is the Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve his needs— for he has no needs.

PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

“His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him – though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and exist. As one of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

“God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”

PAUL IN ATHENS, GREECE

When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, “We want to hear more about this later.” That ended Paul’s discussion with them, but some joined him and became believers.

THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION

If you are going to find the starting point for your faith, or if you are going to get restarted in an adult faith, there is one question that you will need to wrestle to the ground and grapple through, and that is this one essential question, *'Who is Jesus?'*