

# LIFE LINKS

## Growing Together



(Remember the point is not to get through all the questions, but to facilitate connection between each other and God's word.)

### **:Life:**

What is your favorite Easter tradition from your childhood?

### **:Bible:**

After fleeing from Berea, Paul arrives in Athens, alone. As he was waiting it says that he is moved to action because of all the idols around him. He doesn't act in anger, but rather responds with compassion for those in the city. He begins to share again about Jesus. In this city, that is a hub of culture and philosophy, Paul begins to preach the gospel. He meets up with some philosophers who bring him to the Areopagus to hear more about all that Paul has to say to them. It was a regular occurrence for those in attendance, they like to hear new teachings. Paul, in a place without a shared history, launches into a gospel presentation based something he saw in the city. Paul completely contextualizes the gospel for the people of Athens. We as believers are called by God to share the gospel or to give a defense for what we believe (1 Peter 3:15).

The gospel can and should reach anyone in anytime.  
In our culture, what would be a starting point for sharing the gospel?

What does the term Jesus-centered mean to you? What does it look like to be Jesus-centered in your life?

Is there anything that we do as followers of Jesus that distract or blur the meaning of the gospel? (*Deeper question: Is there anything that we view as essential to our experience of Christianity or church that is really non-essential?*)

Read Scripture:

**Romans 3:21-26**

**[21] But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—[22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26] It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)**

Here is some practice.

How would you contextualize this passage or help someone who was trying to understand the message about Jesus?

Easter is coming up soon, we see yard signs, crosses and people discussing Jesus in this season. How can we help others or our one see the grace if God in this season?

**:Application:**

Do you have any non-Christian connections? What is a major hurdle in fostering those connections?

**:Prayer Requests:**

