



An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, April 14, 2013

Third Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [John 21:1-19](#) [Tags: *Jesus appears to disciples. "Feed my sheep."*]

Supplies Needed: Lots of Q-tips (at LEAST three per expected child - but I recommend bringing a whole box up front with you.) You'll also want to keep the Q-tips initially hidden, maybe in a paper bag or back pack.

ASK (a.k.a *The Onramp Section*)

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you. Can you tell me what I am holding? [Show one Q-tip to the group. Keep it separate from the other Q-Tips so that when you pull it out, the kids don't associate it with the bag that you have with you.]
- That's right. It is a Q-Tip. And we use it to keep our ears clean, right?
- So I was thinking that the congregation could always use some more Q-tips. Not because their ears need cleaning, but because they DO keep their ears clean, at some point, they'll need more Q-tips.
- Wouldn't it be nice if you went and gave them some Q-tips?
- Yes? Yes! I agree.
- So, go ahead. Go give them some Q-tips.
- [Pause for a kid to complain about not having any Q-Tips to give away. If a kid doesn't complain, goad them on a little, say "Well, go on now...go give the congregation some Q-Tips"]
- [Wait for a kid to say something along the lines of "I / We don't have any Q-tips to give"]
- Oh...that's a good point. So my suggestion that you go give the congregation something that you don't have doesn't make very much sense, does it?
- Maybe, if I want you to give something away, then I should give it to you first, right?

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

- So in today's scripture story, a similar thing happens.
- We see Jesus tell Peter to give something away.
- Jesus tells Peter to "Feed my sheep."

- So what do you think: What would Peter have to receive before he could feed others?
- That's right! He would need to receive some food to give away.
- And you know what? That's exactly what Jesus gives Peter in this story.
- At the start of the story, Jesus helps the disciples catch lots of fish (153 of them, the story tells us)
- And then, the story says that Jesus made breakfast for Peter and the disciples.
- So when Jesus tells Peter to "Feed my sheep," he's telling Peter to give to others something that Jesus first gave to Peter.
- Now, when Jesus tells Peter to "Feed my sheep," he is telling Peter to care for and love the people.
- And, for Peter to be able to care for and love the people, what do you think Peter has to first receive from Jesus?
- That's right! Peter has to first receive the love Jesus offers to Peter.

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

- Just like Jesus told Peter to care for and love the people, so too, does Jesus tell us to love one another.
- And this is the Good News for today: That the way we love one another is by first receiving the love that Jesus keeps offering to us, that we can then share with those around us...
- ...just like the Q-tips I'm going to share with you so that you can share with the congregation...after we pray.
- [After the prayer, give each child a handful of Q-tips to go pass out in the congregation]

CLOSING Prayer Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

God, thank you for Jesus...

God, thank you for Jesus...

...who teaches us how to...

...who teaches us how to...

...share your love, mercy and care...

...share your love, mercy and care...

...by first offering your love, mercy and care...

...by first offering your love, mercy and care...

...to us.

...to us.

We pray these things in your name,

We pray these things in your name,

Amen