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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, April 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [John 20:1-18](#) [**Summary:** *Recognizing Resurrected Jesus*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed.

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- To get started, I'm going to make some animal noises, and I want you to tell me what animals those noises belong to, ok?
- Moooooo [cow!]
- Meeeeooooow [cat!]
- Baaa-aa-aa-aa [sheep / lamb!]
- Woof! Woof! [dog!]
- Very good guessing!
- Since I don't look like any of those four animals, how did you know the noise I was making matched up with that type of animal?

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

- A fancy word we use to describe what you just did there with those animal sounds is "recognize."
- You *recognized* those sounds I made.
- And the reason you were able to recognize those sounds is because you know a lot about these animals and sounds, right?
- Another way to say it would be to say that you are familiar with those four animals and that's why you can recognize the sounds that they make.

- I bring this up, because in today's scripture story, we hear about Mary's first meeting with Jesus after his resurrection.
- And one thing to know about Resurrected Jesus is that he somehow looks different than he did before his resurrection.
- We know this because Mary doesn't recognize him right away.
- But what we hear in the story is that Resurrected Jesus *sounds* the same.
- So, when Jesus says Mary's name, do you remember what happened?
- That's right! Mary recognized Resurrected Jesus by how he spoke to her, by how he said her name.

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

- For the same reason that you were able to recognize certain animals without seeing them, Mary was able to recognize Jesus by the way he said her name.
- But what if Mary hadn't been familiar with Jesus and hadn't spent time with him?
- Then it's possible she wouldn't have *ever* recognized Resurrected Jesus.
- Which, I think, is an important thing for us to think about for ourselves.
- The more we read and talk about stories about Jesus, the more familiar we become with Jesus.
- And, the more familiar we are with Jesus, the better able we will be at recognizing the Resurrected Jesus, even today.
- This is the good news for today. Let's pray.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for all the stories about Jesus...

Thank you for all the stories about Jesus...

...that help us be more familiar ...

...that help us be more familiar ...

...with who Jesus is...

...with who Jesus is...

...so that we can better recognize...

...so that we can better recognize...

...resurrected Jesus.

...resurrected Jesus.

Thank you and Amen