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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, April 24, 2016

5th Sunday of Easter – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [John 13:31-35](#) [**Summary:** *Love One Another As I Have Loved You*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- This morning, I'm going to teach you an exercise move and, it consists of two rounds of learning.
 - In the first round, I want *you* to show *me* what you think I'll be teaching you.
 - In the second round, I'll then teach you the exercise.
- Got that? So In round 1, I'll give you 5 seconds to do an exercise move that you *think* I'm going to do. Any questions? [Pause] None? Perfect! So go ahead and stand up if you wish to participate
- I'll count for you during round 1.
- So in three, two, one...EXERCISE LIKE ME!
- [*count the five seconds off*]: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1! Yay! Well done! Thank you for doing that! That was great!
- So for round 2, I'd like to teach you how to jog in place.
 - The way to do that is to stand in one spot.
 - Then, you bring one knee up.
 - Then you bring it down while you bring the other knee up.
 - Then you do it faster and faster until you're "running in place."
- So, tell me, were you able to learn what I taught you **before** I taught you?

- No, not really... Do you think that if I had gone FIRST, then you would've been able to do what I did?
- Yes, I think so too.

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

- In today's scripture story, Jesus is teaching his disciples a new rule. He tells them to, "Love one another as I have loved you."
- A very important thing about this rule is that Jesus was already living that rule. He had already shown his disciples how to love one another because he had been loving them.
- And, because Jesus did it first, then the disciples were able to see and experience what Jesus meant when he said, "As I have loved you."
- Here are some of the loving actions that Jesus did for his disciples:
 - He invited them to be his students and wanted to spend time with them.
 - He talked to them about who God was
 - He showed them how to how to talk and listen to God (aka praying)

SHARE the Good News

(a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- And you know what? If we read the stories about Jesus, then we, too, can see these same actions that Jesus showed his disciples
- In this way, Jesus shows *us* how to be his students
- And, because we can see how Jesus showed his love toward his disciples, then we can see how we are to love one another, just like Jesus loved his disciples and loves us.
- As Jesus disciples, then, because Jesus loves us first, we then know how to love others.
- And that's the good news for today!
- Let's close with a repeat-after-me prayer...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,
Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...
Thank you for Jesus...

...who shows your love...
...who shows your love...

...to his disciples...
...to his disciples...

...so that they and we can see...
...so that they and we can see...

...how to share your love with others.
...how to share your love with others.

Thank you and amen