



Posted on April 19, 2015
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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, April 26, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Acts 4:5-12](#)

[**Summary:** *Because they are filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter and John can heal a lame man.*]

Supplies Needed: You need two things whose main purpose is to shoot or hold water (for example, two squirt guns, two spray bottles – at the very least, two water bottles). Especially in the spring, most dollar stores have squirt guns available for sale. It is preferable that the two items look the same, but if they don't, I've inserted comments in brackets like this { *example comment* } throughout the message if the two items do not look the same. *OPTIONAL:* Two volunteers to spray/squirt with water near the end of the message. Talk to them ahead of time for their permission.

ASK (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- [*Hold up the two spray bottles*] Do these look the same to you? (yes! {*No!*})
- Very good! {*So let's pretend that they do look the same*} What might still be different about them even though they look the same? [if the kids don't know, read the next line. If they have the answer of, "what is inside is what makes them different" skip the next line]
- Here's a hint: Let's say I would want to use one of these in a water fight – which one do you think is ready to be used, right this minute? (Ah! – The one with water in it!)
- That's right! Even though {*we are pretending*} these two spray bottles look the same, the thing that {*still*} makes them different is what is inside of them. One only has air in it and the other one has water in it.
- Because of the difference of what is inside, which spray bottle would work more like it is supposed to work, right this minute? (the one with water in it)

TELL (a.k.a [The Freeway](#))

- In today's scripture story, Peter and John are being asked to explain how they were able to heal a man who couldn't walk.

- When Peter answers, the story says that he is filled with God's Holy spirit.
- And this is how Peter and John were able to heal the man -- by being filled by God's Holy Spirit
- So it's sort of like this spray bottle [hold up the air-filled/empty spray bottle] asking this other spray bottle [hold up the bottle with water in it], "How is it that you can spray water all over the place like that?"
- The answer, of course, is that the one spray bottle has more inside of it than the other bottle.
- This is the same thing that is happening for Peter and John.
- They could heal others because what was inside of them: God's Holy Spirit

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

- This story helps us to remember is that when we are filled with God's Holy spirit, we then have God's Holy Spirit to share with others – which is a really good thing to share.
- Just like this water bottle, we are meant to share what we are filled with.
- And sometimes, this might even happen in a playful and refreshing way...like this! And this! [*LIGHTLY spray a forearm of each of your two volunteers*]
- At the end of today's story, Peter reminds us how to be filled with God's goodness and Holy Spirit: By paying attention to Jesus, who teaches and shows us how to be filled with God's Holy Spirit.
- And that is the good news for today.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

**Dear God,
Dear God,**

**Thank you for Peter and John...
Thank you for Peter and John...**

...who remind us...

...who remind us...

...to learn from Jesus...

...to learn from Jesus...

...how to be filled...

...how to be filled...

...with your goodness and spirit.

...with your goodness and spirit.

Amen