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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, August 6, 2017

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 14:13-21](#) [**Summary:** *Feeding Of The 5000*]

Supplies Needed: A pack of those “pocket pack” tissues ([like these](#)), with it’s plastic case unopened.

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

- Good morning!
- I think I need your help. But first, let me tell you my problem.
- A little bit ago, I knew I needed to buy some more tissues. Now, the ones I usually get were sold out at the store and the person in the store said the only ones they had left were these kind [hold up the pack of pocket tissues]
- Now, I was a little confused at first. I was thinking it was strange to just sell one thick tissue.
- And then I was even more confused when I felt it - it felt more like plastic than tissue, but I went ahead and bought it.
- And then I was even MORE confused when I spilled some water and in trying to use this tissue to clean it up [*mime trying to soak up the water by using the tissue packet like a sponge*], no water was soaked up whatsoever! What kind of tissue is that!?
- Obviously, I have no idea what's going on and I am needing your help. Do you know how to use this fancy type of tissue? Am I doing something wrong? [*Wait for responses*]
- What do you mean, "Take it out of the package? What package?" [*let the kids show you / explain to you*]
- Wait, you're telling me there isn't one tissue, but LOTS of tissues!?! [*open the package and start pulling each tissue out*]
- Oh my! Look at how many tissues there are! This explains a lot!!

- Thank you for helping me know that the first thing I was supposed to do was unwrap the tissues!!!

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

- You know what? My confusion about the tissues and you helping me to understand how they are supposed to work is a lot like today's scripture story
- In it, we hear that a large crowd has followed Jesus and that Jesus spent the day talking to them.
- But then, when it's getting to be dinner time, instead of sending the people away for dinner, Jesus tells his disciples to feed the crowd.
- The disciples looked at the food that they had (five loaves of bread and two fish) and tell Jesus, "There's not enough nearly food to feed them!"
- But Jesus says to them, "There is enough food, here. You just have to ask God to help you unwrap the food you have."
- (Those aren't his exact words by the way)
- And then Jesus shows them how to "unwrap" the food they had.
- Jesus does this by taking the food and then praying for God's direction (aka "Jesus blessed" the food)
- Then, with God's direction, Jesus knows how to "unwrap" (the story says "break") the food so that there's plenty of food to give.
- In fact, there was so much food after Jesus unwrapped it with God's help, that there were 12 baskets of food left over.
- It sure does seem like the disciples had the same problem with the food that I had with the tissues, doesn't it?
- They just didn't know how to "unwrap" it
- And, just like you helped me know how to unwrap the tissues, God helped Jesus know how to unwrap the food that the disciples had

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

- The great thing about this story is that receiving God's help with unwrapping things doesn't just have to be about food (or tissues for that matter!).
- There are other things in life where, at times, it will seem like there isn't enough of it, be it time or things or energy or attention.
- And, in those times, when we feel like we don't have enough, we can do just like Jesus taught his disciples to do in today's story.

- We can take what we have, we can invite God's help and direction into it, and then we can follow God's directions that help us know how to unwrap the thing which will help us have enough of it, not just for ourselves, but for others, too.
- And that is the good news for today.
- Let's pray – this is a repeat-after-me prayer (see CLOSING Prayer)

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who shows us how...

...who shows us how...

...you help us unwrap things...

...you help us unwrap things...

...for both ourselves and others...

...for both ourselves and others...

Help us to do what Jesus shows us.

Help us to do what Jesus shows us.

Amen