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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, December 10, 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 1:1-8](#) [**Summary:** *John The Baptist Points Us To Jesus*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- I have a question to ask you, but first, I have to tell you a short story. Listen closely and then I'll ask you my question.
- Pretend that it is the first day of school for you.
- But, not only is it a new school year for you, it is also a new school *building* for you.
- And, at some point during that first day of school, you have to leave your regular classroom and go to another classroom.
- Except, on your way, you get lost in the hallways.
- Can you imagine!?!? (Wait – that's not my question though!)
- But then you see a teacher in the hallway. This teacher is not a teacher you know, but you don't care because you just want to get back to your regular classroom at this point.
- You say to this new teacher that you don't know, you say, "Dear Teacher in the hallway, I don't know how to get back to my classroom. Can you point me in the right direction?"
- Now, *here's* my question – Do you think the teacher will help you out? (Yes! No!)
- Well, it just so happens that the answer is yes – of *course* that teacher will help you out.
- That teacher will say, "Do you see that corner down there where you came from? That's where you made your wrong turn. All you have to do is go back and then turn the other way at the corner. That'll take you right where you need to be."

- And that’s the end of that story – with you following the other teacher’s instructions and having a successful and happy return to your regular classroom and teacher.
- Yay! Well-done on getting back to your room! [Clap hands and high-five the children]

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

- So, in today’s scripture story, we hear a similar story – except the regular classroom teacher is Jesus and the hallway teacher is John the Baptist.
- In the scripture story, we hear that John the Baptist is out in the middle of the wilderness telling whoever finds him that they need to “repent” so that they will be ready for Jesus.
- The word, “repent,” here, simply means to turn around.
- This is the same thing that the pretend teacher in the hallway was saying, right?
- All you have to do is go back and then turn the other way at the corner. That’ll take you right where you need to be.”
- John the Baptist is telling the people the same thing in today’s scripture story. He’s saying, “You’ve made some wrong turns, so what you need to do is turn around and go in the other direction – doing that will get you to your teacher, Jesus.

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

- In a lot of the stories, it certainly seems like Jesus works alone.
- But what we’re reminded of in today’s scripture story is that there are other teachers other there, like John the Baptist, who help Jesus.
- Those teachers help point people towards Jesus when they are new students or when they get turned around or when they make a wrong turn.
- The same is still true for us, today.
- We sometimes get turned around or confused or lost.
- But as a faith community, as a church, we help point each other towards Jesus.
- And that’s the good news for today: We can all help Jesus – just like John the Baptist did – by reminding and helping each other keep our attention on Jesus’ ministry and teachings.
- Let’s pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...and the people who help us remember him.

...and the people who help us remember him.

Please help us...

Please help us...

...to do the same for each other.

...to do the same for each other.

Thank you and amen.