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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, December 14, 2014

3rd Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Luke 1:46-55](#) [**Summary:** *The song of Mary, the Magnificat, is like a game of opposites*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever played a game of “What’s the opposite?”
- This is where you say the word that is opposite of whatever I say
- So, if I said “What’s the opposite of ‘wet,’ ” you’d say ____ ? (dry!)
- Ah, so you have played before!
- Let’s do a few more.
- “On,” you’d say ____ ? (off!)
- “Open,” you’d say ____ ? (closed or shut)
- “Hot,” you’d say ____ ? (cold)
- But what if I say, “warm,” you’d say ____ ? (cool)
- You’re doing very well, so let’s try some harder ones...
- If I say, “mean,” you’d say ____ ? (kind or nice)
- If I say, “hungry,” you’d say ____ ? (fed or full)
- If I say, “weak,” you’d say ____ ? (strong)
- If I say, “hurt,” you’d say ____ ? (healed or healthy or not hurt)
- You are all very good at this game, thank you for playing!

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

- In today's scripture story, Mary, the soon-to-be mother of Jesus is singing a song about God.
- In that song, Mary is singing about how God wants for us to live the opposite of the ways that we hurt each other.
- She sings that God wants the hungry to be filled with good things and wants the weak to be strengthened and for the hurt to know God's mercy / healing.
- Sounds pretty good, doesn't it?
- But here's the thing – God can't make that happen all by God's self.
- We have to choose to join along with what God wants for us.

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

- So, this is one of the things that Jesus does – he helps us to see and hear the good things that God wants for us.
- And Mary, who is going to give birth to Jesus, is excited about what Jesus is going to do.
- Which is why she's singing this song of Good News – because she is excited about how she is going to give birth to and help raise someone (who would that be? – That's right! Jesus!) who will help the world (and each of us in it) to better know, see, and hear what God wants for us.
- This is some of what Mary's song, also known as the *Magnificat*, is about, and it 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 sharing...

Thank you for sharing...

...your love, care, and healing with us.

...your love, care, and healing with us.

Help us to do the same with each other.

Help us to do the same for each other.

Thank you and amen.