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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, February 18, 2018

First Sunday of Lent

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 1:9-15](#) [**Summary:** *Baptism: Jesus Makes A Promise To God*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed.

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

- Good morning!
- Let's pretend that you and some friends are planning a surprise birthday party for another friend of yours, who we'll call "Dakota."
- And you all promised each other to NOT TELL Dakota about her surprise birthday party.
- But, then your friend Dakota shows up and is telling you, "Hey, my birthday is tomorrow, do you know what people are doing for my birthday? I really want to know!"
- What would you do? Would you tell Dakota about the surprise birthday party? Or would you keep your promise to not tell the secret? Why?

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

- In today's scripture story, there are NO secrets in the story, but Jesus *does* make a **promise** to pay attention to God.
- That's what the baptism part of today's story is: Jesus is telling God, "I promise to make you the center of my life. I will make this promise happen by paying attention to you all of the time."
- After Jesus makes this promise, the story says that the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness where Jesus was tempted.
- This is like Dakota showing up and asking, "Do you know what I'm getting for my birthday?"
- In other words, "tempted" is a fancy word that means Jesus had a chance to break the promise he made to God.

- So what do you think Jesus did – do you think he broke his promise?
- You're right! Jesus did not break the promise he had made to God.
- And, because Jesus didn't break his promise to pay attention to God, that tells us that Jesus was *really good* at paying attention to God.

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

- And guess what? Because Jesus was really good at keeping his promise to pay attention to God, no matter what was happening to him, then we also know that Jesus was and is a really, really good teacher to show us how to pay attention to God.
- This means that when Jesus invited his disciples to follow him so that they could learn how to pay attention to God, we know that they had a really good teacher, the best teacher.
- The same is true for us.. We can choose to follow Jesus just like the disciples did.
- When we choose to learn from Jesus, we are choosing to learn how to pay attention to God from the best teacher.
- And the better we are taught how to practice paying attention to God, the better we will be able to receive God's love and direction – which we can then share with others.
- And that's the good news for today. Let's pray...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who kept his promise...

...who kept his promise...

...to pay attention to you...

...to pay attention to you...

..and then showed us...

..and then showed us...

...how to do the same.

...how to do the same.

Thank you and amen.