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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, February 24, 2019

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 6:27-38](#) [**Summary:** *Love Your Enemy (No Tap Backs)*]

Supplies Needed: Before worship, ask a child to volunteer to “play tag” with you during the children’s sermon. Explain what it will look like (see below in the “Ask” section). Briefly demonstrate and practice.

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever played tag with just ONE other person?
- It might look a little like this:
 - [*"Play" tag with volunteer. Both of you should sit there and alternate tapping each other on the shoulder and saying, "You're it." Feel free to vary the tempo between tagging each other as well as increasing and decreasing one's enthusiasm of the tag. Do this for a good 20 to 30 seconds.*]
- So what do you think -- is that a fun game of tag?
- Why do you think that? (*from those who say yes, "It's better than nothing." From those who say no, "It's boring."*)
- Those are good answers!
- I think we'd all agree that tag is more fun when more than two people play it because having more people breaks the back-and-forth cycle that we just saw happen.

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

- Keep this idea of tag being more fun when there's more people playing it in mind as we talk about today's scripture story.
- In today's story, we hear Jesus teach his disciples how to respond to their enemies.

- The lessons he gives them are very difficult things to do and even think about.
 - He tells them to love their enemies.
 - He tells them to not judge their enemies.
 - He tells them to give away their things to the people who are stealing from them.
 - Finally, he tells them to not tag the other player when playing a two-person game of tag.
- OK, he didn't say that last thing. But he did say all the other things.
- And, I think the game of tag idea is important here.
- Because, in a game of tag with two people, what does the IT person want to do to the other person? (*tap them*)
- And then what does the new IT person want to do the other person (*tap them back*)
- Right! It just goes back and forth, back and forth.

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

- Instead of spending our time and energy on trying to tap back, Jesus invites us to follow him.
- And when we choose to follow him, we learn from him how to receive God's love, healing, and mercy.
- And the more love, healing, and mercy we receive, the more of it we have to share with others – even those who are our enemies.
- And that's the good news for today.
- That's the Good News for today. Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,
Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who shows us...

...who shows us...

... how to pay attention to you...

... how to pay attention to you...

...instead of to our enemies.

...instead of to our enemies.

Help us to keep doing so.

Help us to keep doing so.

Thank you and amen