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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, February 25, 2018

Second Sunday of Lent

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 8:31-38](#) [**Summary:** *Jesus Tells Peter To Get Behind Him*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed.

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

- Good morning!
- We're going to start today by playing two rounds of "Follow the Leader."
- Here's how we're going to play...
- For the first round, we're going to sit in a straight line with everyone facing the front of the line -- which is where I will be.
- As the leader, I'll sit at the start of the line facing you.
- Then, whatever I do with my arms and hands, you need to copy / do the same thing. It'll almost be like looking in a mirror. So, if I lift this arm, you would then lift your arm like this, right?
- OK, I think we're ready for round 1. Let's begin!
- *Do Round 1* [*Suggested arm motions for the kids to copy: Raise one arm, then the other arm, then wave them from side to side, maybe add your own arm motion, then wrap up with some [jazz hands](#)*]
- O.K.! That's the end of Round 1 and you did an awesome job.
- What do you think – was that pretty easy? [Yes]
- So for Round 2, I'm still going to be the leader AND I'm going to stay seated exactly where I am.
- You, however, are going to turn around. So if you were thinking about us as a train, I used to be at the front of the train, but now I'm at the back of the train (fun fact, the last car of a train used to be called the "caboose!")
- We are now ready to play round 2. Round 2 is exactly the same as round 1 except you need to keep facing forward.
- You'll just have to guess what my arm motions are going to be.

- Any questions? [*Your answer to just about all the questions is that they have to face forward and that you'll let them know both when the round starts and finishes*]
- ***Do Round 2*** [*Suggested arm motions for the kids to copy: Cross your arms for awhile, maybe add your own arm motion, and then maybe end with the [Dekembe Mutumbo finger wag](#)]*
- O.K.! That's the end of Round 2. Let's go back to sitting how we usually sit.
- What do you think, was Round 2 easier or harder than Round 1? (*Easier! Harder!*)
- Why? [*Because the leader was behind us so we couldn't see the leader*]

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

- Thank you very much for doing these two rounds of "Follow the Leader" with me.
- I wanted us to do this game because I think it helps us think about today's scripture story.
- In the story, we heard that Jesus, who is the leader of the disciples, is telling the disciples that a number of bad things are going to happen to Jesus.
- Upon hearing this, one of the followers of Jesus, Peter, decides to tell Jesus to avoid those bad things.
- Peter, in this moment, is doing just like we did in Round 2 of our game.
- By telling Jesus what to do, Peter had put himself at the front of the line by turning his back to Jesus and then trying to guess what Jesus was going to do and what Jesus SHOULD do.
- But Peter did not correctly guess what Jesus was going to do because Peter couldn't see what Jesus was doing once he decided he was at the front of the line.
- This is why Jesus then tells Peter to get behind him. Peter in his concern for Jesus had become confused and thought he was the leader instead of Jesus.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. [The Destination](#))

- The mistake Peter made in today's story is an easy mistake for us to make, too.
- When we try to take charge like Peter did, even when it seems like the right thing to do at the time, what happens is that we can no longer see what Jesus is doing.
- And what Jesus wants Peter to do is keep paying attention to God.
- Because, when Peter keeps paying attention to God, then he will know how to live God's better way.

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- The same thing is true for us -- when we keep following Jesus and learning from Jesus how to pay attention to God, then we will be better able to live God's better way.
- 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 shows us...

...who shows us...

...how to keep our minds on divine things.

...how to keep our minds on divine things.

Please help us to keep him...

Please help us to keep him...

...at the front of the line.

...at the front of the line.

Thank you and amen