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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, July 10, 2016

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 10:25-37](#) [**Summary:** *The Good Samaritan.*]

Supplies Needed: Three apples and one orange

ASK (a.k.a *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- What am I holding in my hands here? (hold up the 3 apples)
- That's right, I'm holding three apples.
- And is *this* [hold up the orange] the same thing as those three apples? (No!)
- That's right, an orange is not an apple!

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

- In today's scripture story, Jesus tells a story that we call "The Good Samaritan." And what I'm going to do is retell it to you with these 3 apples and this 1 orange, ok?
- One day, an apple was walking along the road and was robbed. That means the apple had its stuff taken from him.
- The apple was also badly hurt while being robbed. In fact, the apple is so hurt that he can't walk. The apple can only lay here and hope that some other good apple will come along and help him.
- And guess what? Another apple DOES come by. But that apple sees the hurt apple and thinks, "It's a trap!" And so the healthy apple turns around and runs away.
- That's bad news for the hurt apple, isn't it?
- So the hurt apple just lays there for awhile longer until...
- Another healthy apple shows up. And the hurt apple thinks, "please help me; please help me."

- But this healthy apple sees the hurt apple and thinks, “These apples are always getting themselves hurt. I can’t help them all.” And just WALKS ON BY! Can you imagine? The healthy apple doesn’t even stop.
- So now the hurt apple is really scared and sad. It looks like no one is going to help the hurt apple.
- But then, an orange comes by. And you may not know this, but apples and oranges don’t like each other. That’s why there’s no such thing as apple-orange juice. Or orange apple pie. Or an “Or-pple” Starburst candy.
- Anyways, the hurt apple thinks that there is no way the orange is going to help him.
- But then something very surprising happens: The orange stops and takes very good care of the hurt apple! The orange helps the hurt apple get better!
- And that’s a lot like the story of the “Good Samaritan” that Jesus tells in today’s scripture story.

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

- Jesus told this story because he wanted his people, the Israelites, to know who their neighbors were.
- See, there was this rule that the Israelites wanted to live by, a rule that they received from God. That rule goes like this: Love your neighbor as yourself.
- But the Israelites would argue about who their neighbor actually was
- In this story, who do you think was the hurt apple’s neighbor?
- The orange? Yep, I think so too.
- Jesus thinks so, too, which is why he tells the people in the story to go and do like the Good Samaritan Orange did – to go out and help those who are hurting and needing help.
- And that’s why Jesus tells this story, to remind us that when we live God’s better way for us, then we can be just like that orange and be God’s loving neighbor to ANY and EVERY person.
- In fact, we can even be neighbors to people who don’t think of *us* as their neighbors
- And when we do this, when we love our neighbors, even those super-silly apples, then we are helping God share God’s love in this world.
- And that is the good news for today.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us.

Thank you for loving us.

Help us to receive your love...

Help us to receive your love...

...so that we can then share your love

...so that we can then share your love

...with our neighbors.

...with our neighbors.

Thank you and Amen