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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, June 7, 2015

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 3:20-35](#)

[**Summary:** *Paying attention to God is how we work well together as Jesus' family (aka the Church)]*

Supplies Needed: A mechanical pencil with graphite / lead that you can pull out and put back in. If you don't have a mechanical pencil, you can use a regular pencil with the writing end broken off and then have a second pencil that's sharpened.

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

- Good morning!
- Can you tell me what this is? [*hold up the pencil with no lead/graphite in it*]
- Yep, it's a pencil! But do you notice something not quite right about it? [*the lead/graphite is missing*]
- You're right -- the graphite is missing which means the pencil can't write or draw -- which is basically the only thing that it's supposed to do, right?
- And what about this thin piece of graphite? [*hold up the graphite*]
- Do you think I could write very well by just holding and using this graphite by itself? (no – it'll break too easy and get graphite on your fingers)
- So basically, the only way this pencil can work correctly, then, is if the two parts of it work together like so: [*put graphite back into the pencil*]

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

- I bring this up because in today's scripture story about Jesus, we hear a lot about PEOPLE not working well together.
- In the story the people were so crowded together that they could not even EAT
- Some of the people were saying mean things about Jesus
- And then Jesus' mother and brothers try to pull Jesus away from his work!

- All this not working together is why Jesus then tells the crowd that a house that is divided against itself cannot stand.
- Jesus then tells them to not say no to God's Holy Spirit.
- Here's what Jesus means by those words: Just like this pencil needs both parts to work well together, WE need God's spirit so that we can work well with each other.
- When we don't seek, ask, and accept God's help and spirit, then we won't work well together, just like what's happening with the people in the today's story.

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

- This is why Jesus then says that whoever pays attention to God is his brother and sister and mother.
- He's letting the people around him (and us) know that when we pay attention to God, then we'll also be working together with him, with Jesus!
- And this is the good news for today: When we pay attention to God, then we're working together with Jesus and each other in such a way that it's like we've joined a really big, loving, and good family.
- Nowadays, we call this family of Jesus', "The church" and "the Body of Christ."
- But to make it work well, we still have to do what Jesus is saying in today's story: We have to keep paying attention to God.
- Let's do that now – 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 teaches us...

...who teaches us...

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

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

...so that we can work well together...

...so that we can work well together...

...as your family.

...as your family.

Amen