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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, June 26, 2016

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 9:51-62](#) [**Summary:** *Jesus is focused.*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever started something but then didn't finish it? Like a game of monopoly? Or a puzzle? Maybe a drawing project?
- Cleaning your room?
- Can you tell me some of the reasons why you didn't finish one of these activities?
- Those are good answers! To summarize, it sounds like a lot of times we don't finish something because something else seems more important or exciting. Does that sound about right?

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

- In today's Bible story, we hear a number of activities that aren't finished.
 - Jesus was going to visit a village and then doesn't visit.
 - His disciples wanted some revenge, but Jesus didn't let them.
 - An individual wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus says that the journey will never end.
 - To another student, Jesus says, "Follow me instead of burying your father who just died."
- But what IS going to get finished is Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.
- That's his destination and he will not be distracted from making it there – not by towns or revenge or new students or their life problems.
- He WILL finish his journey.

- He WILL arrive in Jerusalem.

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

- So Jesus is pretty focused. He's not going to let other important or exciting things distract him.
- He even says to a new student, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."
- In other words, Jesus knows where he's going because he's keeping his focus on God.
- AND, if we follow Jesus in the same way that Jesus follows God, then we'll learn how to focus on God in the same way Jesus focused on God.
- That's a lot of focusing! And that's also the good news for today.
- Let's close with a repeat-after-me prayer...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus.

Thank you for Jesus.

Help us to focus on him...

Help us to focus on him...

...in the same way...

...in the same way...

...he focused on you.

...he focused on you.

Thank you and Amen