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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, March 1, 2015

2nd Sunday of Lent

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 8:31-38](#) [**Summary:** *Peter forgets that Jesus is his leader*]

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 one and you did an awesome job.
- What do you think, was that pretty easy? [Yes]
- So for round two, 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? [for all questions, just remind them that they have to keep facing 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 two. Let's go back to sitting how we usually sit.
- What do you think, was Round 2 easier or harder than round 1?
- Why? [*Because the leader was behind us; 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.
- This game helps us think about today's scripture story.
- 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.
- It's like Peter has turned around and put himself at the start of the line and put Jesus at the back of the line.
- Which is why Jesus then tells Peter to get behind him. Peter in his concern for Jesus, was confused and ended up facing the wrong way and he started to think that he was the leader instead of Jesus.

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

- The mistake Peter makes is easy for us to make, too.
- But when we try to take charge like Peter did, even when it seems like the right thing to do at the time, then what happens is that we can't see what Jesus is wanting us to do.
- And what Jesus is wanting Peter to do is to keep paying attention to God.
- Because, when Peter does keep paying attention to God, then he will know how to live God's better way.
- 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. 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.

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