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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, May 1, 2016

6th Sunday of Easter – Lectionary Year C

**Scripture:** [John 14:23-29](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus Teaches His Disciples How To Be God's Home* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever had toast?
- Do you like to put butter or honey or jelly or something else on your toast?
- Yeah? And, do you put that stuff on the toast before or after you eat the toast? (Before!)
- Before!? Are you *sure*? (Yes!)
- So you're telling me that you have NEVER put butter, jelly, or honey on toast AFTER you ate the toast? (Yes!)
- Hmm – can you tell me why? (Because you can't put the stuff on the toast *after* the toast is gone! Where would you put the stuff?)
- Oh – I think I get what you're saying. You're saying I have to do certain things before other certain things because otherwise it makes no sense. (Yes!)

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

- Did you know that what you just described about making toast is what we often call a “process”?
- A process is when certain things need to happen at certain times so that the ending can turn out the right way.
- In today's scripture story, we see Jesus telling his disciples about a process, too.
- Jesus is telling them about a process where they can help God build a home in their lives.

- Jesus is pretty clear about how this process works.
  - First, Jesus tells the disciples to do what Jesus taught them to do.
  - Second, because of their time together, there is a bond, a trust, that exists between Jesus and his disciples
  - Third, because of this trust the disciples have with Jesus and because they listen to what Jesus says to do, then the disciples will be able and ready to receive the Holy Spirit.
- In other words, when the disciples go through the process that Jesus tells them, then their lives are right where God lives.
- That's pretty exciting, right?
- But remember, the disciples' lives cannot really be God's home if they do not first follow Jesus and learn from Jesus how to be ready for and welcome God's Holy Spirit in to their lives.
- Just like you can't really butter your toast after you've already eaten it!

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

- Even though Jesus was teaching his disciples this process a long, long time ago, we, too, can learn from Jesus how to live the same process.
- We, too, can listen to and follow what Jesus taught, and in so doing, we can get to know Jesus better – all of which helps us to better know how to receive God's Holy Spirit.
- This is good for us, it's good for God, and it's also good for the people around us.
- Because, when our lives become home for God, that means God's peace and love is with us
- And when God's love and peace is with us, then we have all of God's love and peace to share with those who are around us!
- And that's 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...**

**...who teaches us...**

**...who teaches us...**

**...how to be your home.**

**...how to be your home.**

**Please help us to be your home so that...**

**Please help us to be your home so that...**

**...we can share your peace and love with others...**

**...we can share your peace and love with others...**

**Amen**