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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, May 5, 2019

Third Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [John 21:1-19](#) [**Summary:** *Feed My Sheep*]

Supplies Needed: Lots of Q-tips (ear-swabs). At LEAST three per expected child - but I recommend bringing a whole box up front with you. You'll want to keep the Q-tips initially hidden, maybe in a paper bag or back pack.

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

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you. Can you tell me what I am holding? [*Show one Q-tip to the group. Keep it separate from the other Q-Tips so that when you pull it out, the kids don't associate it with the bag that you have with you.*]
- That's right. It is a Q-Tip. And what do we use it for? (To keep our ears clean)
- That's also right! So I was thinking that the congregation could always use some more Q-tips. Not because their ears need cleaning, but because they keep their ears so clean, that means, at some point, they'll need *more* Q-tips.
- Wouldn't it be nice, then, if you went and gave them some Q-tips?
- Yes? Yes!
- OK then, go ahead. Go give the congregation some Q-tips.
- [*Pause for a child to hopefully complain/point out that they do not have any Q-Tips to give away. If no one complains, goad them on a little, maybe say "Is there a problem? Do you not want the congregation to have more Q-Tips?"*]
- [*Once a complaint is made...*] Oh! That's a good point. My suggestion that you give the congregation something that you don't have to give doesn't make very much sense, does it?
- Maybe, if I want you to give something away, then I should give it to you first, right?

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

- So – in today's scripture story, a similar thing happens.
- We see Jesus tell Peter to give something away.
- Jesus tells Peter to “Feed my sheep.”
- So what do you think: What would Peter have to receive before he could feed others?
- That’s right! He would need to receive some food to give away.
- And you know what? That’s exactly what Jesus gives Peter in this story.
- At the start of the story, Jesus helps the disciples catch lots of fish (153 of them, the story tells us)
- And then, the story says that Jesus made breakfast for Peter and the disciples.
- So when Jesus tells Peter to “Feed my sheep,” he’s telling Peter to give to others something that Jesus first gave to Peter.
- Now, when Jesus tells Peter to “Feed my sheep,” he is telling Peter to care for and love the people.
- And, for Peter to be able to care for and love the people, what do you think Peter has to first receive from Jesus?
- That’s right, Peter has to first receive the love Jesus offers to Peter.

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

- Just like Jesus told Peter to care for and love the people, so too, does Jesus tell *us* to love one another.
- But, Jesus first offers that love to us, so that we then have it to share with others.
- And this is the Good News for today: The way we love one another is by first receiving the love that Jesus offers to us...
- ...just like the Q-tips I’m going to share with you so that you can share with the congregation...*after* we pray.
- [*After the prayer, give each child a handful of Q-tips to go pass out in the congregation*].
- Let’s pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of Jesus.

Thank you for the gift of Jesus.

...who offers us...

...who offers us...

...your love, mercy and care...

...your love, mercy and care...

...so that we can then share...

...so that we can then share...

...your love mercy and care with others.

...your love mercy and care with others.

Thank you and Amen