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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, May 10, 2015

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [John 15:9-17](#)

[**Summary:** *God is the unlimited source of love.*]

Supplies Needed: You will need two tennis balls

ASK (a.k.a *The On-Ramp*)

- To begin today, I'm going give this person on my right a tennis ball.
- And what I would like you to do is pass it to the next person.
- Once that person gets it, then they need to pass it to the next person
- Keep doing this until it makes it all the way back to me.
- Ready? Set? Go! [*Pass tennis ball around the circle*]
- Very good!
- Now let's see if we can do 2 tennis balls -- one after another
- Ready? Set? Go! [*Pass one tennis ball, then a second while the first one is still going around*]
- Very good!
- Now that we're well practiced, let's see if we can do 10 tennis balls in a row
- Ready? Set? Go! [*Pass out the same 2 tennis balls and then start looking around as if you lost something*]
- Hold on! Wait! Just a minute! I think we have a problem, here.
- It looks like I don't have 10 tennis balls to pass out.
- I guess we can't do what we were planning to do.
- Sorry about that.

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

- My lack of planning, though, will hopefully help us think about today's scripture story.
- In it, Jesus is talking to his disciples about what he expects them to do after his crucifixion/resurrection/ascension.
- Jesus starts by saying that he has loved the disciples the same way that God loves him (Jesus)
- Jesus THEN tells the disciples to love each other as he has loved them.
- So to review, God first loves Jesus and then Jesus loves the disciples and then the disciples love one another.
- So this love that Jesus is talking about is a lot like our tennis balls, right?
- I pass it to you, you pass it to the next person and so it went.
- But what happens if the disciples run out of love, just like I ran out of tennis balls?

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

- This is why it is important to note where Jesus receives love -- he receives love from God
- This is important to note because God *doesn't* run out of love -- God always has more to give
- So if we keep turning to God, like Jesus did (and taught the disciples to do), then we'll always have more love to receive and then share with each other.
- 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 receives your love...

...who receives your love...

...and then shares it with others.

...and then shares it with others.

Help us to learn...

Help us to learn...

...how to do the same.

...how to do the same.

Amen