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Written by Nathanael Vissia

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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, May 15, 2016

Pentecost Sunday – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Acts 2:1-21](#) [**Summary:** *Pentecost and the disciples*]

Supplies Needed: You will need a place to hide from the congregation. If your sanctuary does not have a large enough lectern to hide behind, you might want to consider bringing a blanket for two volunteers to hold up while you hide behind the blanket. To set up the activity, have the kids stand so that they can see you but are also visible to and facing the congregation.

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

- Good morning!
- How, do you think, could people – who couldn't see or hear each other – talk to each other before there were phones, emails, and letters?
- [*Listen to the offered answers*]
- (That's right!) One of the main ways that a person would "talk" to another person who was far away was through messengers who would "pass on" that person's message
- To help us think about what this would be like, I'm going to ask you to be my messenger to the congregation
- So in just a moment, I'm going to go hide over here behind the lectern (or this held-up blanket).
- And when I'm over there, I'm going to make some arm movements that I want you to copy.
- So, if I point at you, you'd point at the congregation. And then, hopefully, the congregation will copy your movements back to you. (Isn't that right, congregation?)
- If you have any questions, ask away! [*wait for questions. answer as best as you can.*]
- Ok, are you ready? ... Here we go!

{START Activity...

- *Point at your eye and mouth “EYE” Do it a number of times until everyone is copying you (note: you might have to remind them to face the congregation; you might also want to sneak a peek to see if the congregation is copying the kids.*
- *Next, with your hands, make the shape of a heart and press it against your heart / chest while mouthing “LOVE.” Do this a number of times until the kids are all copying you.*
- *Finally, point your fingers towards the kids and mouth the word, “YOU.” Again, do this a number of times until they are all copying you. And, make sure they point at the congregation, not at you*
- *Once they have the three movements figured out, do all three movements slowly and in a row and repeat the whole sequence three or four times.*

...END Activity}

- So, what was I telling you to tell the congregation? (I love you)
- And what did you then tell the congregation? (I love you)
- And ... do you think the congregation understood what I was saying? (They did)
- Well...how do you KNOW the congregation understood my message? (Because they repeated the message back to us)
- Ah...I see!
- Finally, what do you think? Do you think you could now repeat my message without me showing it to you? (Yes!)
- Want to show me? [*Wait for them to show you*]
- You got it! Well done!

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

- This may seem surprising but today's scripture story actually begins way way back when Jesus was baptized.
- When he was baptized, Jesus received the Holy Spirit.
- Powered by God's Holy Spirit, Jesus did some amazing things.
- One of the amazing things he did was invite people to follow him so that he could teach them how to receive God's Holy spirit, too, just like he did.
- Pentecost, today's scripture story, is the story of these people, the disciples, doing exactly what Jesus taught them.
- And because the disciples did just as Jesus taught them to do, they received God's Holy Spirit

- Then, the disciples started talking about the same things that Jesus had talked about by inviting and teaching other people to receive God's Holy Spirit as well
- And, by the end of the story, 3000 people joined the disciples to learn the things that Jesus had taught to the disciples!

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

- So, just like you had to learn my message and then repeat my message to the congregation, so too did the disciples have to learn Jesus' message before repeating it to the crowds in today's story of Pentecost
- The disciples learned and lived Jesus' message of how to pay attention to God, and, then by moving [*move your arms around like you did in the activity*] like Jesus did, the disciples were then able to share and tell Jesus's message with the people around them.
- And guess what!? The very same thing is true for us today.
- Just like the first disciples, we, too, can choose to learn and then live Jesus' message.
- Then, because we are moving and living like Jesus did, we'll also be sharing Jesus' message with those 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 the disciples...

Thank you for the disciples...

...who taught others...

...who taught others...

...how to receive your Holy Spirit...

...how to receive your Holy Spirit...

...just like Jesus taught them.

...just like Jesus taught them.

Help us to do just like the disciples did.

Help us to do just like the disciples did.

Thank you and Amen