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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 28, 2017

7th Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Acts 1:6-14](#) [**Summary:** *The Ascension of Jesus*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Can you tell me the names of some superheroes? (*Superman, Spiderman, Batman, X-men, Avengers, Iron Man, Captain America, etc*)
- And can you tell me what some of their superpowers are? (*really strong, really fast, really sneaky, can fly, shoot things from their eyes, etc*)
- What do super-heroes do? (*save people / fight supervillians*)
- What do you think normal people would do in the super-hero stories if there were no superheroes? (*The people would most likely do something other than sit around waiting for a superhero to save them*)

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

- I ask about super-heroes because the disciples sort of thought of Jesus as a superhero...
- They kept looking to him to figure things out for them, fix things for them.
- The story we heard today happens after Jesus has been resurrected.
- Which is important because the Resurrected Jesus could probably just stick around forever if he wanted, right? Because he's not going to die *again*.
- But what we hear in today's story is that Jesus doesn't stick around.
- Instead, he *leaves* the disciples.

- At first, this might seem like Jesus is being sort of mean to his disciples.
- But the reason he leaves his disciples is so that they won't keep waiting for him to rescue them, so that they won't keep looking to him to fix the situations they are in.
- Jesus leaves so that the disciples will be able to learn their last lesson from Jesus: That with God's help, they can do what Jesus did
- The problem, though, is that as long as Jesus is there to do it for them, then, they won't try as hard or in the same ways.

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

- Jesus taught his disciples how to be God's super-heroes, just like he was God's super-hero.
- Jesus did this by teaching the disciples how to pray, how to keep their attention on God and how to receive God's Holy Spirit.
- And guess what? We can learn the same things that the disciples learned from Jesus by reading the stories about Jesus and then practicing the same things we see him teaching his disciples.
- When we do these things, then we are learning from Jesus how to be God's super-heroes.
- And this is what God's super-heroes do: They love with God's love, they help with God's help and they teach others what they've learned about God.
- And this is the Good News for today: Not only can we learn to be God's super-heroes, but then we can *be* God's super-heroes.
- Let's pray – this is a repeat-after-me prayer (see CLOSING Prayer)

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,
Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...
Thank you for Jesus...

...who shows us how to be your superheroes...
...who shows us how to be your superheroes...

...by *receiving* your love and Holy Spirit...
...by *receiving* your love and Holy Spirit...

...so that we can *share* your love and Holy Spirit.
...so that we can share your love and Holy Spirit.

Amen