

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, May 31, 2015

1st Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [John 3:1-17](#)

[**Summary:** *Jesus invites Nicodemus to rebuild with God's Holy Spirit*]

Supplies Needed: four or five building blocks (I use Jenga blocks, but alphabet blocks or the cardboard bricks that are sometimes in the nursery work well, too). You might also want a board to be able to place the blocks on.

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

- Good morning!
- To start, I'm going to build a tower with these blocks that I have here [*build a tower with a very unstable structure – for example, using Jenga blocks, build a tower 3 or 4 pieces high with each block sitting longwise on the skinny edges*]
- As you can see, I'm really REALLY good at building towers.
- But you know what's weird? Whenever someone walks by or a door shuts or something, my towers tend to fall over a lot! [*if you are building on a board, nudge the board a little bit so that your unstable tower falls over - otherwise, just give the tower a little nudge from behind with your finger*]
- [*after the tower falls over*] Like that! See what I mean!? It's so frustrating.
- Do you have any ideas about how I might build a tower that won't fall over so easily?
- [*Take their advice and start building again – and maybe re-phrase what they say so that you do IN-DEED end up with a more stable tower. Be sure to say something like "Oooo – you're helping my tower have a better base and foundation at the bottom of it – that's very smart!"*].
- [*After the new tower is built*] Oh, I like this – this looks a lot more stable. Look! I can even poke it and it won't fall over. And it all had to do with how I was building the tower at the bottom. This is amazing! Thank you so much!



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

- In today's scripture reading, we heard the story of Jesus talking to Nicodemus.
- In the story, Nicodemus wants to know why Jesus can do what he does.
- Jesus tells Nicodemus that it's about being led by God's Holy Spirit, and being led by God's spirit is a whole new way of living.
- This is what Jesus means when he says that Nicodemus has to be "born from above" with God's Holy Spirit.
- So basically, if we think about our tower, here, Nicodemus wants to know why Jesus can build such better towers than Nicodemus can.
- Jesus tells him that you have to have God as the base of your tower [*point to the bottom of the tower*], and in doing so, you'll have to start over so that you can build that new, better tower.

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

- Starting a new tower after you've worked so hard on the first tower isn't always easy. Sometimes you don't want to see that first tower fall apart, even if the next one is going to be better.
- That's why there's this line at the end of the story that says, "God did not send God's Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save it."
- In other words, when we learn from Jesus how to pay attention to God, some things are going to change in our life, but those things are going to change for the better – just like my tower is better now because of the changes you helped me make.
- 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 teaches us...

...who teaches us...

...how to pay attention to you...

...how to pay attention to you...

...so that we can live like he did.

...so that we can live like he did.

Amen