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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, November 4, 2018

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

**Scripture:** [Mark 12:28-34](#) [ **Summary:** *The Greatest Commandment* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed.

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

- Good morning!
- Sometimes it's a good thing to re-introduce ourselves.
- So let's do that today. I'm going to tell you my name and then, to save time, I want all of you to tell me *your* name – all at the same time.
- I'll count to three and then go ahead and say your name nice and loud. And dear members of the congregation – you're welcome to join in as well!
- Ready? 1....2....3!
- [ *point at the kids and congregation – garbled cacophony ensues* ]
- OK – let's see if I heard you correctly
- [ *point at a general area of kids and be sure to use names that none of the kids have for the following line* ] I think someone over here said their name was Wonder Woman and over here was a Luke Skywalker and I think someone over here said Pastor [*name of pastor preaching that day*]
- How did I do? (*terrible!*)
- What? I did? Well, that's surprising! Why do you think I got so many names wrong? (*because we were all talking at the same time*)
- You know – it WAS pretty loud, there, for a moment when you all said your names at the same time. What do you think would've worked better? (*to let each person take a turn at saying their name*).

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

- In today's scripture story, Jesus and another teacher spoke with each other about the most important thing we can do to help us pay attention to God.
- They agreed that the most important thing is to listen to God and love God with with "all your heart, soul, mind and strength."
- Because of their agreement with this answer, I was thinking about how we can best listen to God and love God with all our heart, mind, and strength when life is so noisy.
- I mean, just a few minutes ago, it was so noisy I couldn't even hear your names. If life is that noisy, how am I or anyone else going to be able to listen to God?

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

- Thankfully, there are a number of stories of Jesus listening to God that show us how we, too, can listen to God in a noisy and busy life.
- What we see Jesus do over and over again is find a quiet place and make time and space for prayer.
- In other words, Jesus keeps giving God a turn to speak, just like I should've given each of you a turn to share your name, earlier on.
- For us, this might look like making time in the morning with your mom or dad to pray before the day starts or maybe make a time to pray before bedtime.
- When we make this time and space for prayer, then we're giving God a turn to speak to us, just like God spoke to Jesus.
- That's the good news for today. Let's pray.

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,  
Dear God,**

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

**...who shows us...  
...who shows us...**

**...how to listen for you...  
...how to listen for you...**

**...in our noisy lives.  
...in our noisy lives.**

**Amen**