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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, November 13, 2016

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 21:5-19](#) [Summary: *When Things Fall Apart*]

Supplies Needed: You'll need 5 or so building blocks that can be stacked on top of each other in a less than stable way (I like blocks from the game of *Jenga*, personally). Also, you'll want a hard, flat surface (like a board of some sort) to build on.

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

- Good morning!
- I have here some building blocks
- And what I'm going to do is use these blocks to build a nice looking building.
- [build a pretty/artistic building that is also highly unstable with your blocks]
- What do you think? It looks pretty good, don't you think?
- But even though it looks pretty good, it's not a long-lasting type of building, is it?
- What do you think will happen if I shake the board this is built on?
- You think it will fall over?
- Let's find out! [*shake board slightly until the building falls down*]
- Yep, you were right. It was a pretty building, but not very solid or long-lasting.

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

- In today's scripture story, Jesus and his disciples are in Jerusalem where the Temple was located.
- And the disciples are excited about seeing the Temple.
- They think the Temple is a pretty amazing building!

- But even though the Temple was much prettier AND better built than my little building, Jesus tells the disciples in today's story that it was going to fall over – just like my building did.
- This probably sounded pretty scary to the disciples because...
- ...when we realize that things that we think will last for a long time (like buildings) might fall over and be no more, then that can often make us feel afraid.

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

- But what Jesus then teaches the disciples is that even though things like my little building and big buildings like the Temple do not last forever...
- ...God DOES last forever.
- Which means when things are falling apart, God is and always will be with us while it happens.
- And, because God is with us in these scary moments, then God can help us know what to do and how to respond – which means we don't need to be afraid.
- And that is the good news for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you that...

Thank you that...

...in a world where things...

...in a world where things...

...don't last forever...

...don't last forever...

...you are always with us.

...you are always with us.

Thank you and Amen