



Posted on September 20, 2015
Written by Nathanael Vissia

This material is the copyrighted property of rfour.org. It is also free. Please use, improve and share this material. But do not ever pay for it, sell it or require any sharing of personal information for it.

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

For more information visit www.rfour.org/childrenstime.html

Written for Sunday, October 4, 2015

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 10:2-16](#) [**Summary:** *How Jesus helps prevent hard hearts.*]

Supplies Needed: You will need some type of individually wrapped candy (like Starbursts) or other type of food (or even stickers) that you can then share with the children.

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

- Good morning!
- So on this side of me is where some of you sit
- And on this other side of me is where the rest of you sit
- Because I'm left-handed, just for the next few moments, I'm going to favor those of you who are sitting on my left side.
- I'm going to favor you by giving you some starburst candies [*start handing out candies just to the people on one side of you*]
- [address the ignored group] So, what do you think, is this fair?
- No, it isn't, is it?
- Now, just imagine if I kept doing this to all of you - EVERY DAY.
- Imagine if I kept ignoring you and favoring those who sat on my left side, how might you start to feel about me?
- You might start to have toward me what we sometimes call "hard feelings," wouldn't you?
- And without thinking about it, what might happen is that you take your hard feelings and start doing what I just did to you...to someone else!
- And because I do NOT want any of that to happen ... here - have a starburst [*pass out candies to those on the other side of you as well*]

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

- I wanted to create some brief "hard feelings" today so that you might understand a similar idea that was being talked about in today's Bible story.
- The story begins with Jesus telling the leaders of the Israelites about why Moses, a previous leader of theirs -- who lived way before Jesus did -- had made a certain rule.
- Jesus tells the leaders that Moses had made this certain rule with God's help so that the people wouldn't be full of hard feelings that they would then share with everyone else.
- Right after Jesus gets done explaining this, did you hear what happened next?
- Right after Jesus finishes telling the Israelite leaders about how to keep hard feelings from happening...
- ...Jesus finds out that his disciples are busy creating hard feelings by not letting certain people get close to Jesus.
- And those certain people that the disciples weren't letting get close to Jesus were *children*.

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

- And this is where the good news of the story happens – Jesus shows us a better way to deal with hard feelings.
- Instead of making a rule, Jesus shares God's love with the children – He talks to them, picks them up, and blesses them
- What Jesus does here is a good reminder for us to do the same.
- The best way for us to deal with possible hard feelings is to receive God's love and then share God's love with the people around us – just like Jesus did in today's story.
- And that's the good news for us 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 shows us...
...who shows us...

...how to share your love...
...how to share your love...

...with others.
...with others.

Help us to do the same.
Help us to do the same.

Thank you and amen