



Posted on September 7, 2018  
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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for Sunday, October 7, 2018*

*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lectionary Year B*

**Scripture:** [Mark 10:2-16](#) [ **Summary:** *God's Love Prevents Hard Feelings* ]

**Supplies Needed:** A type of candy (like Starburst candies) or stickers to 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 [favored]-handed, just for the next few moments, I'm going to favor those of you who are sitting on my [favored] 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 [favored] side – how might you start to feel about me?
- You might start to have what we sometimes call "hard feelings" towards me and might start treating me like I'm treating you.
- Not only that, without thinking about it, you might also take your hard feelings and start doing to someone else what I was doing to you!?
- Because I do NOT want *any* of that to happen ... here - have a Starburst candy [*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.
- Today's 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*)

- This then is where the good news of the story happens – Jesus shows us a better way to deal with our hard feelings.
- Instead of treating other people with hard feelings, Jesus chooses to share God's love with the children . He talks to them, picks them up, and blesses them.
- What Jesus does in today's story with the children is a good reminder of what we can do when we might be tempted to act on our hard feelings.
- Just like Jesus did, we can choose to pay attention to and then receive God's love (instead of paying attention to the actions of others) and then because we are filled with God's love, we have that love to share with the people around us.
- 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 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**