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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, September 13, 2015

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 8:27-38](#) [**Summary:** *Getting to know Jesus*]

Supplies Needed: You will need a brown lunch bag (or cloth bag) – something that you can put an item in and then close the top so that people can't see inside, but they can still feel the item inside the bag with their hands. You will also need an item to put inside the bag. I suggest something that feels pretty generic but then has something specific inside – like a box of pencils or a box of tic-tacs.

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

- Good morning!
- I have an item in this bag here [*put paper brown bag with item in it on the ground in front of you*]
- And just by looking at that bag – without looking inside of it or touching the bag – I'd like you to tell me what you think the item is that is INSIDE the bag.
- [*Give affirmative nods and noises of approval as ideas are shared*]
- OK, now I'm going to pass the bag around. As you can see, the bag is stapled shut. Do not open it. But go ahead and feel with your hands what is inside of the bag.
- Do any of you have new guesses as to what is inside the bag?
- [*Give affirmative nods and noises of approval as ideas are shared*]
- OK – now I'm going to open up the bag so that you can look inside of it – and then you can tell me if you have any new guesses as to what's inside the bag.
- [*Give affirmative nods and noises of approval as ideas are shared*]
- So...what do you think? Did your guesses change as you learned more about what was inside the bag? (yes)
- And did your guesses get closer to the right answer the more you learned about the item inside the bag? (yes)

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

- In today's scripture story, Jesus asks the disciples a question like the one I just asked you.
- But instead of asking his disciples, "Tell me what's in this bag." Jesus asks them, "Tell me who people think I am."
- The disciples give all sorts of answers about what the people are saying because there are lots of people who don't know very much about Jesus.
- It's like they've only seen the bag that Jesus is in, instead of getting closer and opening the bag up to look inside.
- But then Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do YOU think I am?"
- And because the disciples *had* been learning from and about Jesus, they had answers that were closer to being correct.

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

- Today's story is a good reminder to us that learning the answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?" is not something we learn quickly.
- It takes some time and investigation to learn about who Jesus is. Here are some of the ways we can learn about and from Jesus:
 - By coming to worship on Sunday mornings
 - By reading and talking about Jesus stories in Sunday school
 - By reading a Bible story each day with our mom or dad and then talking about it after we read it.
- And when we do these things, we will be like the disciples, who learned about Jesus by learning *from* him
- 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 and shows us...

...who teaches and shows us...

...how to pay attention to you.

...how to pay attention to you.

Help us to learn from him...

Help us to learn from him...

...and about him.

...and about him.

Thank you and amen