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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, February 2, 2014

4th Sunday in Epiphany

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 5:1-12](#) [**Summary:** *We are blessed when we accept God's help.*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Can you tell me some things that you can do that are easy for you to do?
- And with these easy things, do you ask for help? Or do you just do those things by yourself?
- So when do you usually ask for help?
- When something is hard or difficult to do, right?
- And then when you receive that help, are you usually able to do the thing that was difficult?
- How do you feel afterwards? Exited? Happy?

TELL (a.k.a [The Freeway](#))

- So in today's scripture story, Jesus is talking to his disciples about the word "blessed."
- The word "blessed" can mean a couple of things.
- One thing it can mean is that God is with us.
- [Optional: The fancy words we use for this are words like "holy" and "consecrated"]
- So when Jesus says, for instance, "Blessed are those who mourn" (which means sad), Jesus is saying that God is with people when they are really sad.
- Being really sad can be a hard or difficult thing for a person.

- In fact, all of the people Jesus describes as being blessed in today's scripture are people who are feeling or wanting difficult things.
- People who want peace want a very difficult thing -- because so often people are fighting in this world.
- And you know what -- what Jesus is teaching here is not easy to understand.
- How is it that God is "with the people" who are going through these very hard times?
- [Pause to see if any of the kids want to answer, even though it is more of a rhetorical question]

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

- The simple answer is that God is with us all the time.
- But, do you remember, how, just a few minutes ago, how you were telling me all the easy things you could do without anybody helping you?
- The same is true for us with God.
- When things are easy for us, when things are going well for us, then we tend not to ask for God's help or pay close attention to God.
- But, when things get hard or difficult for us, that is when we are more likely to say, "God please help me. God, please help me to know what to do."
- The Good News that Jesus is sharing with the disciples in today's scripture reading is that when we ask for and then accept God's help, that is when we are blessed.
- And that is the Good News for today.
- Let's pray.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

We need your help.

We need your help.

Please help us to accept your help.

Please help us to accept your help.

And, we thank you for helping us.

And, we thank you for helping us.

Amen.