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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, April 3, 2016

2nd Sunday of Easter – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [John 20:19-31](#) [**Summary:** *God's Holy Spirit Replaces Fear*]

Supplies Needed: For the demonstration, you'll need a clear water bottle filled all the way up with water (with no lid), a straw, and a bucket of some sort to catch the water that spills.

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

- Good morning!
- When you have a straw with your drink, do you sometimes blow bubbles into your drink?
- Do you know what causes the bubbles? (Your breath!)
- That's right!
- So let's pretend you have some water.
- Like this [*show water bottle with water in it*]
- And let's pretend you have a straw – like this [*show straw*]
- What do you think will happen when I put this straw into the water and blow bubbles into it? [*Water will be pushed out of the bottle*]
- OK – let's see what happens
- [*blow into the straw and push the water out of the bottle; catch the water with the bucket you brought along*]
- What happened?
- That's right! The air made bubbles and pushed out at least some of the water that was in the bottle!

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

- So – last week Sunday, we remembered and celebrated the resurrection of Jesus.

- And in this week's story, we hear about Jesus' first real interaction with his disciples since his resurrection.
- One of the first things we hear in the story is that the disciples are afraid.
- Let's pretend, then, that the disciples' fear is like the water in this water bottle
- Later in the story, we hear that Jesus breathes God's spirit into the disciples
- Just like I breathed air into this water bottle
- And, just like my breath pushed the water out of the water bottle, so too did God's Holy Spirit push out the fear that was in the disciples.

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

- So, the disciples were filled with fear, still, because of the bad and scary things that had happened to their teacher and leader, Jesus
- And, they were scared because they didn't yet understand resurrection.
- But then, because they let Jesus breathe the Holy Spirit into them, then their fear was being replaced with something much, much better.
- And this is the good news for today.
- Even when awful, scary, bad things happen to us, we don't need to be filled with these events.
- Instead, we can remember today's story. We can remember that the breath we breathe is filled with God's Holy Spirit and as we are filled up with God's Holy Spirit, it replaces the fear and worry that can sometimes fill us.
- Let's close with a repeat-after-me prayer...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,
Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of Jesus...
Thank you for the gift of Jesus...

...who reminds and teaches us how to...
...who reminds and teaches us how to...

...breathe in your Holy Spirit...
...breathe in your Holy Spirit...

...so that we won't be afraid.
...so that we won't be afraid.

Thank you and amen