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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, April 16, 2017

Easter

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10](#) [**Summary:** *Resurrection Is A Team Event*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever tried to play a board game by yourself?
- What about playing catch -- have you ever played catch by yourself?
- What about football? Have you ever tried to run in a touchdown, but then tackled yourself just before the goal line?
- So it IS possible to do these things by yourself, right?
- But it's a lot better when you do these things with other people, don't you think?

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

- So in today's scripture story, we hear about Jesus' resurrection.
- Resurrection is this fancy word that we use to describe God giving Jesus life again after Jesus died.
- One thing we might think about resurrection is that Jesus is the only person who experiences resurrection. We might even think, "Why does Jesus get to be resurrected but other people don't get resurrected?"
- And that's a good question!
- The answer to that good question is that resurrection is NOT just for Jesus...resurrection is also for his disciples.
- And that's what we see in today's story: Jesus' resurrection is very important to his disciples.

- At the start of today's story, the disciples are very afraid and very sad but by the end of the story, although they are still very afraid, they are definitely not sad anymore.
- Even more importantly -- they are energized, they are talking to each other (or getting ready to), they are gathering together again (or getting ready to) -- and all the things that Jesus taught them are starting to make even more sense to them.
- So just like board games and football are better with more than one person -- so too is resurrection better with more than one person.
- Which is why Jesus had disciples in the first place: He was teaching them how to be ready for and how to participate in all the better ways of living that God offers – including resurrection.

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

- And guess what!? Jesus' resurrection is **STILL** better when more people are involved in it. Resurrection is a team event!
- Being here today and remembering and celebrating Jesus' resurrection together is definitely a good start in experiencing Jesus' resurrection!
- But the best way to experience Jesus' resurrection is to do like the disciples did: To learn what Jesus was teaching and learn to live the way Jesus lived and learn to pray the way Jesus prayed.
- We can do this by reading the stories that are about him and talking to each other about those stories, just like we are doing right now.
- And when we do that, we will learn the same things the disciples learned; the same things that helped them to see and experience Jesus' resurrection!
- 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.

Help us to learn like his disciples did...

Help us to learn like his disciples did...

...so that we can experience resurrection...

...so that we can experience resurrection...

...just like the disciples did.

...just like the disciples did.

Thank you and Amen.