



Posted on April 2, 2016
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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, April 17, 2016

4th Sunday of Easter – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [John 10:22-30](#) [**Summary:** *Jesus helps us connect with God*]

Supplies Needed: Two popsicle / craft sticks. A glue stick or a bottle of somewhat-quick drying glue.

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

- Good morning
- I have a question for you: Can you tell me how to glue these two popsicle sticks together?
 - Should I just put the glue on one end of a popsicle stick and then wave the stick around?
 - Should I put the glue on one end and press the two popsicle sticks together on this other end that is opposite of the glue?
- No? I shouldn't do either of those things? What should I do instead? [*listen to answers*]
- Ok, so you're telling me that I should put some glue on the end of one popsicle stick and press the other popsicle stick against the place where I just put the glue?
- [*say in a light tone*] And why should I listen to you? Are you the glue masters? Are you the all-knowing glue experts?
- Oh...Because you've done this before and it worked?
- So maybe I should just try what you've said and then I'll find out if what you said is correct or not, right?
- OK. Let me do that right now
 - [*put glue on one end of the popsicle stick and place the other popsicle stick on top of the glue.*]
- Now what do I do? (wait!)
- OK - while we wait, how about we talk about today's scripture story...

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

- In today's story, Jesus talks about how no one can separate him from his followers.
- And one of the reasons for this is because as Jesus teaches his disciples about God, the more the disciples learn to trust Jesus
- At first, this may not make sense to us – which is why I had you teach me something this morning
- And, as you've taught me about gluing these popsicle sticks together, I've learned that you know what you are talking about and I should listen to you and trust you more
- The same thing happened with the disciples, the more they learned from Jesus, the more the disciples learned to trust Jesus.
- But if those disciples had never tried what Jesus said, then they'd probably not trust Jesus very much.
- This not trusting is what we see with the Pharisees in today's story,
- Since they never try what Jesus says about connecting with God, they then don't learn to trust Jesus.

SHARE the Good News

(a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Talking about learning...
- ...let's see how the popsicles sticks are doing
- [*the glue should be tacky enough that if you turn the two sticks over, the one stick won't separate from the other one*]
- Look at that! The glue is working and the two popsicle sticks are now joined together – thanks to your help!
- And, just like the glue helps these two popsicle sticks connect with each other, so too does Jesus help us connect with God in the same ways that Jesus connected with God.
- And, as we learn how to glue ourselves to God just like Jesus did, then no one and nothing can separate us from Jesus OR God!
- That's the good news for today
- Let's close with a repeat-after-me prayer...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,
Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...
Thank you for Jesus...

...who helps us...
...who helps us...

...get glued to you...
...get glued to you...

...when we trust him.
...when we trust him.

Please help us trust him.
Please help us trust him.

Thank you and Amen