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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, December 25, 2016

Christmas Day

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 2:1-15 \(16-20\)](#) [Summary: *Jesus is born*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever asked someone, “What are you talking about” and then they say, “Nothing.”
- Or, have you ever asked someone what a word meant that they had used, and they said, “I’ll tell you later.”
- Or, when you ask for some help and the person says, “Just a minute, I have to finish this other thing first.”
- Ever had any of those things happen?
- When those things happen, it can feel like you are being left out, that you don’t get to be part of what is going on.
- Even if that’s not actually what’s happening, that’s what it can feel like, right?

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

- I bring this up because there is a group of people in today’s scripture story who were often left out of things – and it wasn’t just a feeling.
- Because of their job, the shepherds were often the last to hear about things.
- Instead of being in town to hear news, they would be outside the town for weeks at a time, protecting and caring for the sheep.
- Then, when they did go into town, they smelled pretty bad, so people would keep their distance.

- Shepherds were often left out.
- But in today's scripture story, when a really big and important thing happens (the birth of Jesus), did you hear who were the FIRST people to hear the news?
- That's right, the shepherds were the first to know!
- How cool is that? The people who were always the last to know, the people who were always left out ... they were the first to know about Jesus' birth!

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

- And you know what? That was on purpose.
- One of the reasons the shepherds were told first was because the good news of Jesus' birth AND the good news that Jesus shares and teaches as an adult is good news for everyone to hear and receive.
- Including, those who are often left out, like the shepherds.
- By telling the shepherds, first, then, a very clear message was being shared: Who Jesus is and who he will be is for everyone. For you, for me, for all of us.
- That is the good news for today! And, merry Christmas to you!
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God...

Dear God...

...thank you for the good news...

...thank you for the good news...

...of Jesus' birth...

...of Jesus' birth...

...that we are all invited...

...that we are all invited...

...to celebrate and receive.

...to celebrate and receive.

Thank you and Amen.