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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, December 31, 2017

1st Sunday after Christmas

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Luke 2:22-40](#) [**Summary:** *A Faith Community For Mary, Joseph, and Jesus*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

ASK (a.k.a *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- I have a tough question for you, but I know you'll give it your best try: Can you tell me what a *community* is?
- That's right! It's a group of people who live or gather together for shared reasons.
- A community is helpful in a number of ways:
- It can teach you things that you don't yet know.
- It can remind you of things you know but have forgotten.
- It helps you to keep doing the things that the community cares about and why you joined it in the first place.
- It listens to you and cares about what you say.
- So, how many communities do you think you belong to? [*Wait to see what they say – if anything*]
- Well, I definitely think you belong to more than one community.
- Your family is a community.
- And here at [*name of your church*], we are a community – a *faith* community that you belong to.
- Your friends at school are a type of a community, too.

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

- In today's scripture, we hear that Jesus had a faith community, too, even when he was really young, even younger than you!
- Two of the people in that faith community were Simeon and Anna.
- In today's story, we hear Simeon talking to Mary and Joseph and what he tells them are reminders about who Jesus will be and what he will do in and for their faith community.
- And did you hear what Mary and Joseph's response was?
- That's right, they were amazed -- which tells us they were listening very carefully -- that these were really important words for Mary and Joseph to hear.

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

- And guess what? Just like Jesus, we too are part of a faith community where we can teach and remind each other about God, where we can share important words with each other that encourage us to keep paying attention to God.
- Just like Jesus grew up in a community that supported and encouraged him to be a person who paid attention to God, so too do you and I have a community that reminds us and teaches us about paying attention to God, here at [*name of your church*]
- So thank you for belonging to this faith community.
- I am thankful for the ways in which you learn, teach, and remind the community about God.
- And, I am very thankful for the ways in which you *will continue* to learn, teach and remind this faith community about paying attention to God.
- That's the good news for today: Let's pray...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for this faith community...

Thank you for this faith community...

...that reminds us...

...that reminds us...

...to keep paying attention to you...

...to keep paying attention to you...

...so that we can live...

...so that we can live...

...like Jesus did.

...like Jesus did.

Thank you and amen.