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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, January 10, 2015

Epiphany – 1st Sunday after Epiphany – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 3:15-17, 21-22](#) [**Summary:** *Baptism and God's Holy Spirit*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies are needed

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

- Good morning!
- Have you ever been told that you have to finish what's on your plate before you get dessert?
- Or, that you have to clean your room before you can play a game or go outside and play?
- Yeah – you've heard that once or twice before?

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

- We see a similar thing in today's Bible story where John the Baptist is, in some ways, telling the people to clean up their lives
- And, if they want to do that, John is saying, "Here, let's do this baptism thing that will help you remember that you want to clean up your life."
- But John also tells the people something else.
- John also tells the people that after they clean up their lives, there's more that will happen.
- We then get to see what that "more" will look like when Jesus gets baptized.
- We hear that when Jesus is baptized, he then receives God's Holy Spirit.
- Think of Jesus receiving God's Holy Spirit as the part where you get to play a game after cleaning your room – that's the good part that follows the cleaning up part.
- With God's Holy Spirit, Jesus is then able to go out and share the gifts of the Holy Spirit, like God's healing love, forgiveness and mercy.

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

- This good part where Jesus receives God's Holy Spirit gets even better because Jesus then spends a lot of his time teaching his disciples how to better connect with God and receive God's Holy Spirit.
- And guess what? We, too, can choose to learn from Jesus how to connect with God.
- And when we do that, we are learning how to receive God's Holy Spirit
- Which means we can then share the gifts of God's Holy Spirit with the people around us.
- Just like Jesus did.
- 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...

...who teaches us...

...who teaches us...

...how to better connect with you...

...how to better connect with you...

...and then share your love, healing, and light...

...and then share your love, healing, and light...

...with others.

...with other.

Amen