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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for June 20, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

**Scripture:** [Mark 4:35-41](#) [Summary: *Jesus Calms Our Inside Storms* ]

**Supplies Needed:** A towel or blanket – you'll want to have it nicely folded to begin with.

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

- Good morning!
- I have a VERY nicely folded towel here – if I might say so myself. I spent a LOT of time folding it – to get it nice and neat just for you today.
- In what ways, do you think, could we use this towel? (*to dry off with, cover up with, maybe mop up something, maybe to use as a pillow or something to sit on*)
- It's odd that none of you said "Put it where everyone can see it, admire how nicely it is fold, but do NOT TOUCH IT" – because that's how *I'm* thinking it should be used.
- See ... all of your suggestions sound like really good things to do with a *someone else's* towel.
- Because if we did those things you were suggesting with *this* towel, then it would get all messed up and wrinkled and that would be really really sad, don't you think? (*Hopefully the kids will all yell "NO!" at your ridiculousness, but if they don't – whisper to them "Say NOOOOO"*)
- Wait – is it possible that you are telling me that the towel can be *re-folded* after we use it!?!?!?
- Hmm. Do you think you could show me how to do that? [*Mess up the towel and let the kids refold the towel for you and then thank them for their help.*]

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

- There are no towels in today's scripture story, but there IS a storm.
- And the disciples are really worried about it.
- In a lot of ways, the disciples are a lot like my towel – they started the day nicely folded and presentable to the world.

- But when the storm showed up – they got so worried about the storm and the waves, that the disciples get all wavy and stormy inside of *themselves*.
- Sort of like this – [*unfold the towel again and bunch it up a little bit to make it look like waves*].
- But, once the disciples got all stirred up and twisted on the inside, they then did something really smart – they asked Jesus for help.
- Do you remember what happened once they asked Jesus for help?
- That’s right – Jesus calmed the storm.
- [*smooth out the towel*] Jesus smoothed out the waves.

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

- Just like the disciples in today’s story, we too have moments where our lives get stormy and twisted up [*bunch up the towel yet again*] which then causes us to worry so much that we feel like this towel looks [*hold up or point to the bunched-up towel*]
- This story is a good reminder, then, that when those moments happen, we don’t have to **stay** stormy and twisted up on the inside.
- Instead, we can do like the disciples did and ask for Jesus’ help.
- And when we ask Jesus for help, Jesus will do what Jesus always does – he will help us see and know how to let God’s love, light, and life into us – which will do what, do you think?
- That’s right! Letting in God’s love, light, and possibilities will help us smooth out the stormy waves that we often feel on the inside [*smooth out the towel one more time*] which then helps us better be able to respond to others during that stormy time.
- And that’s the good news for today. Let’s pray.

## **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**...who teaches us...**

**...who teaches us...**

**...how to pay attention to you...**

**...how to pay attention to you...**

**...so that the storms on our insides...**

**...so that the storms on our insides...**

**...can be calmed.**

**...can be calmed.**

**Thank you and amen**