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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for March 8, 2020

2nd Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [John 3:1-17](#) [ **Summary:** *Nicodemus Visits Jesus* ]

**Supplies Needed:** A balled-up sheet of printer or copier paper

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

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you -- can you tell me what this is? [*show the balled up piece of paper*]
- And, what do you think -- if I drop it from up here, do you think it will drop straight down? Or do you think it will land somewhere else? [*listen to their answers*]
- Those are all good guesses! Let's see what happens [*hold balled-up paper in air and drop it*]
- Yep – looks like it dropped straight down.
- So, what do you think -- do you have any ideas about how this piece of paper might be able to catch the air better so that, when I drop it, it won't drop straight down? [*it will be interesting to hear what they have to say*]
- Those are some good ideas! I think I heard someone say to uncrumple the paper. I think I'll try that.
- [*uncrumple and smooth out the paper*]
- OK, I'm going to drop this piece of paper again -- do you think it will drop straight down or land somewhere else? [*listen to their answers*]
- Those are all good guesses! Let's see what happens [*hold up flattened paper and drop it*]
- So, did the paper fall straight down? (No -- it floated and drifted)
- Why do you think the paper acted differently?
- Yes, I think you're right. Because the paper was flattened out, it was able to catch more of the air and then float on its way to the ground.

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

- In today's scripture story, Nicodemus, a religious teacher, asks Jesus how it is that Jesus can do all the things that Jesus is able to do.
- Jesus' answer is that he can do what he does because of God's Holy Spirit.
- Jesus then says that God's Holy Spirit is like the wind.
- Finally, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he has to learn how to receive God's Holy Spirit.
- In other words, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he has to be like a flat piece of paper and not a balled up piece of paper so that he can better catch God's Holy Spirit.

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

- Sometimes, it is difficult to understand a different way to do something.
- Just like some of us may not have thought to flatten the balled-up piece of paper, it seems like Nicodemus did not understand by himself how to invite God's Holy Spirit into his life.
- But that's one of the gifts that Jesus offered -- he helped people to see what God's Holy Spirit could do and then he taught them how to invite God's Holy Spirit into their lives.
- Which is why today's story reminds us that God so loved the world that God gave us Jesus, who showed us why and how to receive God's Holy Spirit.
- 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 taught us...**

...who taught us...

**...how to receive and then share...**

...how to receive and then share...

**...your Holy Spirit...**

...your Holy Spirit...

**...with the world you so love.**

...with the world you so love.

**Thank you and Amen.**