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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [John 20:1-18](#) [**Summary:** *Recognizing Resurrected Jesus*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed.

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

- Good morning!
- To get started, I'm going to make some animal noises, and I want you to tell me what animals those noises belong to, ok?
- Mooooooo [cow!]
- Meeeeooooow [cat!]
- Baaa-aa-aa-aa [sheep / lamb!]
- Woof! Woof! [dog!]
- Very good guessing!
- Since I don't look like any of those four animals, how did you know the noise I was making matched up with that type of animal? (*Because we know those sounds!*).

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

- A fancy word we use to describe your knowing of those animal sounds is "recognize."
- You *recognized* those sounds I made.
- And the reason you were able to recognize those sounds is because you know a lot about these animals and their sounds, right?
- Another way to say it would be to say that you are *familiar* with those four animals and that's why you can *recognize* the sounds that they make.

- I bring this up, because in today's scripture story, we hear about Mary's first meeting with Jesus after his resurrection.
- And one thing to know about Resurrected Jesus is that he somehow looks different than he did before his resurrection.
- We know this because Mary doesn't *recognize* him right away.
- But what we hear in the story is that Resurrected Jesus *sounds* the same.
- So, when Jesus says Mary's name, do you remember what happened?
- That's right! Mary *recognized* Resurrected Jesus by how he spoke to her, by how he said her name.
- For the same reason that you were able to recognize certain animals without seeing them, Mary was able to recognize Jesus by the way he said her name - because she was familiar with Jesus and his voice.

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

- What resurrection is, and what it means, is not easily or quickly understood.
- Mary, in today's story, helps us understand that the more familiar we are with Jesus, the easier it is to recognize resurrection and Resurrected Jesus.
- This is a good reminder, then, of one of the reasons for why we choose to regularly read and talk about the Jesus stories – as a way for us to become more familiar with Jesus, his actions, and what he taught.
- And, the more familiar Jesus is to us, the better we will be at recognizing and understanding resurrection and Resurrected Jesus – just like Mary was.
- 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 all the stories about Jesus...
Thank you for all the stories about Jesus...**

**...that help us be more familiar ...
...that help us be more familiar ...**

**...with who Jesus is...
...with who Jesus is...**

**...so that we can better recognize...
...so that we can better recognize...**

**...resurrected Jesus.
...resurrected Jesus.**

Thank you and Amen