

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for May 7, 2023

5th Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [John 14:1-14](#) [ **Summary:** *Doing Greater Things Than Jesus* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

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

- Good morning!
- We're going to play a game of "Simon says *and* does".
- The way this works is that I'll say "Simon says" and then the thing that I say, I will also DO.
- If what I say and what I do match each other, then you are supposed to do it, too.
- HOWEVER, if I what I do and what I say do NOT match, then you don't do what I'm saying OR doing.
- So if I say, "Simon says "FALL OVER" but I stay standing up, what do you think you should do... fall over?" (NOOO!)
- Why? (Because you stayed standing)
- Ok, it sounds like you've got it. So...let's play! [**OVERALL NOTE:** *We are not trying to trick the kids, here. The idea is to do the things that you say every time.*]
- Simon says "Clap your hands" [*I prefer doing a rhythmic clap, like two short claps and a long clap, but how you choose to do the clapping has no bearing on how the message proceeds*]
- Simon says "Stomp your feet" [*Again, I prefer a rhythmic stomp, like left-left-right and then right-right-left instead of a pitter-patter, but again, how you choose to do the stomping has no bearing on how the message proceeds*]
- Simon says "Shout "AAAAAAAHHHHH" " [**Note:** *Be sure to move the mic away from your face AND the kids when shouting "aaaahhh"*]
- [*Repeat the three steps*]: "Simon says "Clap your hands" ; Simon says "Stomp your feet" ; Simon says "Shout AAAAHHHH"

- [Then] Simon says, “Sit down because the game is done” **[NOTE: be sure to sit down when you say this!]**
- Thank you for playing – you all were very good clappers, stompers, and shouters.

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

- So, in today’s scripture story, Jesus is talking to his disciples.
- And one of the things that he says is that they, the disciples, are going to do even greater things than he, Jesus, has done.
- That’s a pretty amazing thing for Jesus to say, don’t you think?
- Another thing that Jesus tells the disciples is that he tells them HOW they will be able to do greater things than he has.
- The way the disciples will do the same and greater things as Jesus is by doing the very things that Jesus has been saying to them and then doing.

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

- It’s almost like Jesus is playing a game of “Simon says *and* does” with his disciples.
- If we think back to the *our* “Simon Says and Does” game – why did you do the things that I did? – Because I *said* AND *did* them, right?
- Although you were doing the same things as I was, there were MORE of you doing those things – so you were doing them louder and greater than I was, weren’t you? – Yes, yes you were!
- So that’s the same thing that Jesus is telling his disciples: Do what I’ve said and do what I’ve done and when you do that *together*, then you will do what I have done...and because more of you are doing those things, it will be greater than what I’ve done.
- And guess what? We can do the same thing today!
- We can choose to be disciples of Jesus, where we study what Jesus taught and did. And then, we can actually do what Jesus taught and did.
- And when we do this, when we do what Jesus taught and did, then we are doing what Jesus said his disciples would be doing in today’s story: The same things that Jesus did and even greater (because there are more of us doing those things).
- That is 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 did what he said...**

...who did what he said...

**...and taught us and showed us...**

...and taught us and showed us...

**...how to do the same.**

...how to do the same.

**Thank you and Amen.**