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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, November 27, 2016

1st Sunday in Advent

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [Matthew 24:36-44](#) [**Summary:** *Advent and Jesus Keep Us Awake* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies are needed

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

- Good morning!
- Soooo....Christmas is going to be here somewhat soon...in a month or so.
- Does that feel like a long time away to you?
- But, as Christmas gets closer, do you get more excited about it?
- Do you get so excited on the night before Christmas that you think you won't be able to fall asleep?
- Do you ever worry that you might not fall asleep on the night before Christmas until it is so late that you would then sleep ALL THE WAY through Christmas Day?
- OK, so you would never do that, but what would happen if you did sleep through Christmas Day?
- That's right! You wouldn't be able to open your presents. You wouldn't get to see other people open their presents. You wouldn't get to eat the fancy food. And if friends or family were visiting, you might not see them.
- In other words, if you slept through Christmas, you would miss out on a whole lot of good stuff, wouldn't you?
- So here's my advice to you, though I don't think you need it: Don't sleep through Christmas!

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

- So in today's scripture story, Jesus is telling his disciples something like what I just told you about not sleeping through Christmas.punishment, EVERYONE is making fun of him.

- But instead of warning his disciples to not sleep through Christmas, Jesus is telling them to stay awake.
- Jesus wants them to stay awake so that they don't miss the gift that he, Jesus, brings – which is the good news of how we can live God's better way.

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

- So as a church, we use the fancy word of “Advent” to describe this time before Christmas, where we practice “staying awake” to Jesus so that we don't then miss the gift of Jesus and the Good News that he brings to us.
- So for the next few weeks we will do things that will help us get ready for the celebration of Jesus' birth.
- Because, just like we don't want to sleep through Christmas, we also don't want to sleep through the Good News that Jesus brings us.
- And 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 teaches us...  
...who teaches us...

...to stay awake...  
...to stay awake...

...to your better way.  
...to your better way.

Thank you and Amen