

Children's Message for June 28th 2020

Object: None need. However, consider a book with a story that can easily be memorized and shared

Scripture: Matthew 10:40-42

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Message

Can you tell me a favorite story you know (wait for answers)? I have a story I know too! It's (give a name of a story you know that your kids probably know too)... Would you be willing to teach me the story you know? Maybe just the first part? (If they aren't willing, offer to teach your story). That was great! One of the things I really appreciate about stories is to be able to listen to how someone tells it. Hearing a story is a gift that tells us something about a person. And, especially if the story is easy and memorable, then the person who tells the story can also teach you and me how to tell it too – which means we can tell the story whenever we want to hear it! And, once you and I are able to tell it, that also means we can teach others how to tell the story too! Stories, then, are gifts that keep on giving. We can share them in different ways, adding our own thoughts and ideas and teach others how to share them, too.

In today's scripture story, Jesus is talking to his disciples about another type of gift that keeps on giving. Instead of stories they share, Jesus is instead talking about prophets and the words they share. In Jesus' time, people who shared God's words with others were called "prophets." But prophets didn't just share stories, they also shared God's love, healing, and forgiveness, too. And, in today's scripture story, Jesus is telling his disciples that when they welcome prophets into their homes and lives, then they will be receiving the gifts that the prophet shares with others. But, offering God's words, love, healing, and forgiveness aren't the only gifts a prophet shares. Jesus reminds the disciples that a prophet can also teach them how they too can share God's words, love, and healing.

Just like a storyteller can share a story by telling it AND by teaching it to us, so too can a prophet share God's words, love, healing and forgiveness with others AND teach others how to do the same thing. Jesus does the same thing as the prophets he talks about. In many other stories Jesus shares God's words, love, healing, and forgiveness with the people around him. Jesus also teaches his disciples how to receive God's words, love, healing and forgiveness so that they can share God's love, healing, and words just like he did. And, just like the disciples, we are invited to learn from Jesus how to receive God's words, love, healing, and forgiveness so that we can then share God's words, love, healing, and forgiveness. Once we start sharing these gifts with others, then we, too, are helping give the gifts from God that keep on giving.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for Jesus who teaches us how to be your gift by receiving and then sharing your forgiveness, healing, and love. Thank you and Amen.

Optional Activity

Create a book. Have paper, pens, crayons, stickers, and a staples available. Have your child/children create a book with the story they may have shared in the message above, the story you shared, or a story recreating how Jesus might have taught his disciples to share and give God's gifts of words and

actions of love, healing and forgiveness. Once the story is created, staple the pages together to create a book.

Source: adopted from rfour.org