

Children's Message for June 14th 2020

Object: Fruit (e.g. apple, grapes) and a pillow

Scripture: Matthew 9:35 – 10:8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Message

I have a strange question for you. What do you like to eat? Why do you like it (allow for answers)? I like (show them the piece of fruit). It's because it tastes good and keeps me healthy and alive, just like your favorite food does right? Those are good reasons for why you eat. Here's another question for you, why do you sleep (show pillow, allow for answers)? I agree. I need sleep too or I would be tired and have a hard time staying awake the next day. These reasons that you gave about why you eat and sleep can sometimes be described by the word motivation. Have you heard that word before? Motivation describes the reasons why we do what we do.

In our story today, Jesus shared his motivation for why he has disciples and why he is teaching them and what he is teaching them. Jesus has compassion for the crowds of people when he sees them as lost sheep, and he needs help in providing God's care, healing and teaching. Jesus then tells the disciples that that's exactly what they are going to do. They are going to go out as pairs, and they are going to care for others with God's compassion and healing. Remember that the disciples are still learning and Jesus is giving them a chance to experience the reasons for why they are learning what they are learning, which will then increase their own motivation to keep learning.

And guess what? Jesus' motivation for teaching his first disciples is meant for us too. We are invited to be students of Jesus and to learn from him like they did. One of the things we learn from Jesus is how to receive God's love, compassion, healing and teaching so that we can then share God's love, compassion, healing and teaching with others. Today's story reminds us that just as Jesus thinks his disciples can do these things, he knows we can too. So Jesus' belief in us becomes our motivation in continuing to share God's love, healing, and compassion because the world needs it just as much now as it did when Jesus first taught his disciples.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for Jesus who taught the disciples and us how to receive your compassion, healing, and teaching so that we can then share your compassion, healing, and teaching with others. Amen.

Optional Activity

Good News Flower Pots: Let children plant a small flower in a mini pot and glue a small piece of paper on the pot or attach it with a pipe cleaner and stick a note in the dirt. The note can say "Spread the Good News" or "Spread the Good News of Love", etc. Encourage your child/children to share the potted plant with someone.

Source: rfour.org and sermons4kids.com