

Children's Message for May 24th 2020

Object: 2x8 strips of paper to form a chain

Scripture: John 17:1-11 (NRSV)

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Message

Ask your child/children about a time when they were so excited or worried about something that they couldn't wait to tell someone. Have them share it aloud and write it on one of the pieces of paper. Go ahead and do the same (share and write) from your own experiences. Say to them, we love to share with someone when we are excited or worried, don't we? Well Jesus is showing us today in our story from John, that prayer can be like that: something we are excited, nervous, or worried about that we can tell God. And God wants us to tell her about it. We don't have to use fancy words or wait for a special time to talk with God. We can talk to God anytime, anywhere and about anything! You see God hears and understands our prayers no matter what all of the time. What's most important is that we share them with God. When we share our prayers it helps us to connect with God and to know that God is always with us. Prayers also connect us to each other as the people of God. We can pray for each other as Jesus prays for his disciples. We can pray for all people to love each other. Prayers don't even have to be words, they can be thoughts or songs or pictures! I have extra strips of paper you can use to draw or write on. When we are finished we will make a chain with each piece of paper so we can share all of them with God together.

Prayer

(Share the prayers written on the chain and close with), Dear God, thank you for caring for us. Thank you for loving us. And thank you for letting us share our thoughts and feelings with you. Thank you for connecting us all together through your love. Amen.

Source: faithformationjourneys.org