

22nd Sunday
after Pentecost
Reformation
Oct. 23, 2023-
Oct. 29, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

THEME: A Time for Steadfast Faith

SONG: CW21 810/ CW93 p. 77 - The First Song of Isaiah, refrain only (sing several times)

VISUAL: a child volunteer; a large stuffed animal with a sign around its neck that says "Trouble"; something sturdy for the child to hold onto

OBJECT LESSON

Ask for a volunteer to come forward and stand on one foot. Show the large stuffed animal, and read the sign around its neck saying "trouble." Ask the children if they think you could use the animal named "Trouble" to push the child and make the child have to put the other foot down to keep from falling.

Now have the child hold onto a sturdy object while standing on one foot. Ask, "Would Trouble be able to push your friend down as easily now?" Explain that holding onto the sturdy object made their friend more steadfast. Steadfast is a word that means "firmly in place."

BIBLE TRUTH

In today's Bible story, we are going to hear how a man named Daniel was steadfast. Listen to find out what a king's decree, or law, was, and what Daniel did when he heard about the new law.

Read Daniel 6:10-12.

What was the king's law? What would happen to anyone who disobeyed? But what did Daniel continue to do? Even though the law said that no one could pray to anyone but the king, Daniel kept praying to God. He knew that if he did this, he would be fed to lions and die. But Daniel remained steadfast—he kept praying to God, three times a day, right where he always had. Let's find out what happened next.

Read verses 16-23.

What did God do for Daniel?

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

God wants us to stay steadfast in our faith, even when troubles come. This means that when bad things happen, we will still believe that God loves us and Jesus saved us, and we will keep praying to him.

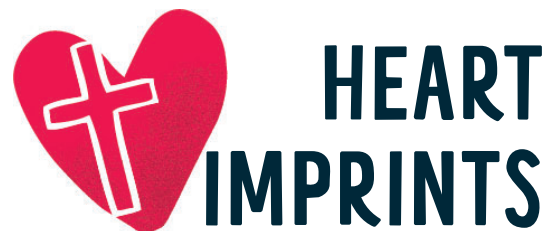
I'm going to name some troubles that could happen. If you think it would be important to stay steadfast if that trouble happened, then I want you to nod your head.

Examples of troubles to name: a friend being mean to you, getting hurt, losing a pet, getting very sick, etc. The children should nod as you name each trouble.

It's hard for us to stay steadfast when troubles come. But whenever we hear God's Word, his Holy Spirit works in our hearts to make our faith stronger. He is always with us, so no matter what troubles come into our lives, let's be like Daniel and stay steadfast in our faith!

PRAYER

Dear God, you had the power to protect Daniel from the lions, and you can help us with all our troubles too. Whenever we have troubles, send the Holy Spirit to keep us steadfast in our faith. Remind us that you love us and that Jesus saved us, and lead us to keep praying to you. Amen.



23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Oct. 30, 2023-
Nov. 5, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 7:9-17

THEME: A Time to Focus on Future Glory

SONG: CW21 584 – Jesus Loves Me

VISUAL: fresh vegetables; picture of a vegetable garden

OBJECT LESSON

(Show fresh vegetables.) If I love to eat fresh vegetables like these, really soon after they are ready to pick, what might I plant at home? (Show a picture of a vegetable garden.)

Would it be easy to grow vegetables? It might sound easy, but it can take a lot of work. What might I have to do to get the ground ready for the garden? What do I need to do with the seeds? What do I need to do if we don't get a lot of rain? What if animals try to eat my vegetables as soon as they start growing? When the vegetables are ripe, what would I need to do? I might have to do a lot of hard things before I get my yummy fresh vegetables!

BIBLE TRUTH

While the Apostle John was still living on this earth, Jesus let him look into heaven, and Jesus told John to write down what he saw. Today we're going to hear part of what John wrote.

Read Revelation 7:9-14.

John saw lots of people in heaven. Where were the people from? (all over the world) One of the people there told John that these were people who had come out of the great tribulation. Tribulation means "a lot of trouble or suffering." Where do a lot of troubles happen—in heaven, or here on earth? (on earth) John was seeing people from all over the world who had gone through many troubles and a lot of suffering while they lived on earth. But now they were in heaven. Why were they in heaven? (they had been washed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus) Let's hear what heaven is like.

Read verses 15-17.

What never happens in heaven? (People never get hungry or thirst or too hot, and they never cry.)

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Is it possible that if I try to grow vegetables, I'll have lots of troubles along the way? But if I stick with it, will I probably have a reward at the end? Will we all have troubles here on earth? What kinds of troubles might we have? Sometimes when we have lots of troubles, it's hard to remember that someday we will be in heaven. Will there be any troubles there? Will we ever cry or be hurt?

When we have troubles here on earth, it helps to think about heaven and why you have heaven. No matter how bad things get for us here, all our troubles will end on the day we go to heaven. Remember that no matter what we have to go through here, it will all be worth it in the end, when we are with Jesus.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for going through the troubles of suffering and dying here on earth so that we can go to heaven someday! When we have troubles here on earth, help us think about heaven and how wonderful it will be to be with you there. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Nov. 6, 2023–
Nov. 12, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:1-13

THEME: A Time for Watchfulness

SONG: CW21 713 - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

VISUAL: sheet of construction paper folded in half; crayons, glue, and items that could be glued onto a card (such as lace, ribbon, and an artificial flower); a toy

OBJECT LESSON

Have a volunteer pretend to be your child. Explain that you are going to be acting out a story with your “child.” Tell the child “I have a project I have to do for work today, but sometime this afternoon, as soon as I get it done, we’re going to Grandma’s to celebrate her birthday. Make a really nice card for her before then.”

Tell the child to imagine that he or she wants to go play for a while first. Have the child walk away and play with a toy. Ask the other children, “What might happen if my child waits to make the card until the middle of the afternoon, and I finish my project early?” Point out that waiting to do a job can mean you won’t be ready when you need to be.

BIBLE TRUTH

My “child” in our story didn’t know when the parent would come home and take them to Grandma’s house. Today in God’s Word we hear a story Jesus told that is a bit like that. Jesus’ story was about ten virgins, young women, who didn’t know when the groom would be coming to start a wedding celebration. They had to be ready for him to come at any time. Let’s hear Jesus’ story. Read Matthew 25:1-13.

How many of the young women were ready when the groom came? (five) The other five weren’t ready, so they missed the wedding.

Jesus ended by telling us that we need to “keep watch,” because we don’t know the day or the hour that something is going to happen. Who is going to come back to earth sometime, ready to take us to heaven? We don’t know when he is coming. We need to be ready at all times.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What happened when the child waited to get ready to go to Grandma’s? What happened to the five young women who weren’t ready for the groom? What will happen if we aren’t ready for Jesus to come back?

If we aren’t ready for Jesus, we won’t go to heaven. That’s a scary thought, but being ready means just one thing: We need to have faith—to believe in Jesus as our Savior. And we don’t even go out and find faith for ourselves; the Holy Spirit gives us faith!

We have the ability to reject the Holy Spirit, though. Some people say, “I’ll think about reading God’s Word and believing in Jesus when I’m older. Right now I just want to have fun!” What might happen to a person who waits to get ready for Jesus? (They could die before they think they will, or Jesus could come back at any time, and they won’t be ready.)

The time to “keep watch” is now! Let’s not wait to love Jesus and believe in him as our Savior. The Holy Spirit is working faith in Jesus in your hearts right now, as you hear God’s Word. That’s what makes you ready!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we are glad that you are coming back sometime to take us to heaven, even though we don’t know when that will be. Send your Holy Spirit to make our faith stronger so that we will be ready when you come. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Nov. 13, 2023-
Nov. 19, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30

THEME: A Time for Faithful Service

SONG: CW21 695 /CW93 469 - Take My Life and Let It Be st. 1-3
(Invite children who don't know the words to participate by pointing to the parts of the body they hear being offered to Jesus.)

VISUAL: eight different types of seed packets to grow vegetables (alternative: eight small mailing envelopes, each labeled with a different vegetable name and picture); three volunteers to represent siblings of different ages

OBJECT LESSON

Ask for three volunteers, and have the children pretend that they are siblings (brothers and sisters). You are their grandparent going away for the summer. You want them to take care of your vegetable garden while you are gone.

Hand five seed packets to the oldest child. Give the middle child three packets, and give the youngest child one seed packet to plant. Tell all the children that you want them to plant their seeds and take care of the vegetables until you get back. Ask why you might have given five packets to the oldest child, three to the middle child, and only one to the youngest child. Point out that it makes sense to give the person with the most abilities the most to do. Ask what you should find when you come back at the end of summer.

BIBLE TRUTH

In today's Bible lesson, Jesus tells a story about a man who was going away and gave his three servants a job to do, each according to his ability.

Read Matthew 25:14-23.

When two servants used their abilities well, and earned more gold for the man, how did he feel? Now let's read what happened with the third servant.

Read Matthew 25:24-30.

How did the man feel when the third servant didn't use his abilities to earn more gold?

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Remember my story about the grandparent leaving seed packets with his or her grandchildren? Imagine that the youngest child didn't plant his vegetable seeds. Would anything

grow? Would the grandparent be happy if he came back at the end of the summer, and the youngest child's seed packet still wasn't even opened?

Just like in that story and in the Bible story about the man who gave his servants jobs to do, God has given each of us gifts and abilities. (Name some abilities you know that the students have, such as being able to read or write, being good friends, cheering people up, singing, and so on.) God is sad when we don't use the abilities he has given us to serve him.

God wants us to use the abilities he has given us to do the job of making his kingdom grow until Jesus comes back. (Ask the children to help think of ways to use the abilities you named before to make his kingdom grow. For example, singing could be used to praise God. Being a good friend could help a child invite a friend to come to Sunday school.)

God is happy when we use our gifts and abilities to serve him.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for giving each of us different abilities. Help us use those abilities to serve you while we are here on earth. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Nov. 20, 2023-
Nov. 26, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:31-34

THEME: A Time to Yearn for the End

SONG: CW21 584 – Jesus Loves Me

VISUAL: volunteers who have never been to a Disney theme park; real or pretend microphone

OBJECT LESSON

Ask the children who has never been to Disney but wants to go someday. Have some of those children come to the front, and tell them that they are going to do some pretending. What you are going to say isn't real, but they are going to pretend it is.

Tell the children to pretend that you are a TV news reporter who has just told them that they have won a vacation to a theme park that is like Disney, only better. It's a place where everyone is happy and has fun, the food is great, the rides are exciting, and they can do whatever they want. Using a real or pretend microphone, interview them about how they would feel. Are they excited? Is it hard to wait? Have the children show you how excited they would be!

BIBLE TRUTH

In the part of the Bible we'll read today, Jesus tells us about a day that we will get to go someplace even better than the best theme park in the world!

Read Matthew 25:31-33.

Jesus is talking about when he will come again. That day will be the last day that this world exists, and it is called Judgment Day. On Judgment Day, Jesus will come with his angels, and he will put on his right side the people who believed in him as our Savior. Do you believe that Jesus is your Savior? Then you will be on Jesus' right side! Listen to how he describes the place where he will take us.

Read Matthew 25:34.

Where is Jesus going to take us? Jesus is talking about heaven! It's a place that God prepared for us when he created the world.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Earlier we imagined a place that was like Disney, only better—a special theme park. You all seemed pretty excited about the idea of going there. It would be hard to wait, right?

Which do you think is better: a special theme park, or heaven? Heaven is much, much better than any place we could go on earth. We'll always be happy in heaven. We will feel healthy and never get sick or hurt. It will be more beautiful than anything we've ever seen on earth. And we'll get to see Jesus with our own eyes.

(Get out the microphone again, and "interview" children.) How do you feel about going to heaven? Are you excited? Does it seem hard to wait sometimes?

We have to wait to go to heaven until God says it's time. But it's ok to be excited about heaven. It's ok to want to go there. The Last Day of this world is going to be a very happy day for all of us who believe in Jesus.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for being our Savior and for promising that because you died for us, we can go to heaven. We look forward to being there with you someday! Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS