

**10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday**  
After Pentecost  
July 26-  
August 1, 2021

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

**THEME:** Jesus brings us together to share his love

**SONG:** On My Heart Imprint your Image CW(93) 319/320

**VISUAL:** Puzzle peices  
**Optional:** Make your own simple puzzle. Print a picture of Jesus and cut into 5-6 pieces

### OBJECT LESSON

Show the children one of the puzzle pieces. Ask if they know what the whole picture is based on that one piece. Tell them how, all alone, the puzzle piece is something quite small and, in reality, quite worthless. However, connected to other puzzle pieces, it becomes extremely important, especially because the puzzle can't be completed without that one small piece. Show either the box the puzzle came in or the whole picture of Jesus. The puzzle or the picture showing Jesus would be incomplete without all of the pieces together.

### BIBLE TRUTH

God has given a mission to his people. He wants us all to let the whole world know that Jesus is the Savior of the world; that he lived a perfect life in our place and died on the cross to pay the price for all our sins.

Sometimes, though, especially if we are young or nervous or feel like we aren't very good speakers or that we don't know what to say to people, we might feel like that small, useless puzzle piece.

It is good to remember, however, that we are not alone! The responsibility is not all on us alone!

In Ephesians 4, God tells us He himself gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ. This is to continue until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the

Son of God, resulting in a mature man with a stature reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ.

Even though God gave each of us different skills, when we use them together, we are like those puzzle pieces all coming together to show the full picture of Jesus! We are united under one Lord, one faith, and one baptism into one body! We depend on each other's skills, use them together, and carry out the work that God has called us to do!

### DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What skills do you have that God gave to you? Can you use kindness? Can you make food? Can you babysit while parents go to bible class? Can you sing?

How can you use those gifts to serve others?

How can you support missionaries teaching about Jesus in foreign countries?

### PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for the many different gifts and people you have made. Help us to use our gifts to thank and praise you. Be with everyone who teaches your love and forgiveness to others. In your name we pray. Amen

**SCRIPTURE:** JOHN 6:24-35

**THEME:** Jesus feeds our souls with his Word

**SONG:** On My Heart Imprint your Image CW(93) 319/320

**VISUAL:** A stale piece of bread  
A fresh piece of bread in a sealed plastic bag

### OBJECT LESSON

Now that school has started again, that means that it is time to do one of the things I like the least: making lunches in the morning. It's not really all that difficult, it is just another thing to do in the morning and it never seems as if there is enough time! One thing you could do to save some time is make the lunches the night before, but if you do that, you have to be careful! For example, I left this piece of bread out last night and now it's stale and gross! However, if you make sure to put it in a bag, it stays fresh and preserved.

### BIBLE TRUTH

After Jesus fed more than 5000 people with just five loaves and two fish, the people were making it clear that they were only interested in watching him do more miracles or to have him be their earthly king who would miraculously provide for their physical needs over and over again.

Jesus, though, told his disciples and all the people in John, chapter 6 Do not continue to work for the food that spoils, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

So they said to him, "What should we do to carry out the works of God?"

Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God: that you believe in the one he sent."

Like bread that has been left out all night, Jesus was telling the people that if their concerns

are only about this world, they are going to be disappointed and wouldn't have what they truly need.

However, faith in Jesus as the Savior of the world, the one who lived a perfect life and sacrificed that life on the cross, is like the bread that stays fresh in the Ziploc. It is always there when you need it and it will always be healthy and good for you to eat. Through Jesus, the Bread of Life, we have forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Feed your faith on him until we get to heaven!

### DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What are some of the things that people seek after today that are foods that "spoil?"

How can you keep your faith "fresh" and "healthy?"

### PRAYER

Dear Jesus, You are the Bread of Life because you feed our faith with your Word. Forgive us for the times when we seek other food for our souls. Keep us from straying and help us to share your Word with our friends and family. In your name we pray. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** EPHESIANS 4:30-5:2

**THEME:** In love, we forgive because of Jesus

**SONG:** On My Heart Imprint your Image CW(93) 319/320

**VISUAL:** Different hats (construction, football, police officer, baseball) or different costume pieces (tools, football jersey, police badge, baseball glove)

## OBJECT LESSON

Either hold up or show each of the different hats or costume pieces and ask the children to describe what kind of person uses each of the materials. Feel free to make one or two at the end a little more difficult to guess. Explain to the children that, just by looking at some of the items, you know what kind of person uses them and you might even be able to tell a lot about that person, just by seeing a hat or a baseball glove.

*(Some are sensitive to the celebration of Halloween, so depending on your class, you may not want to use the following illustration)* Alternatively, you could ask the children if they know what they are going to be for Halloween this year and give them ideas based on each of the items. If you wear a baseball hat and a baseball glove, people will know that you are going to be a baseball player. A construction helmet and a hammer and people know that you are going as a builder or construction worker.

What items would you use if you wanted to imitate Jesus?

## BIBLE TRUTH

Through the apostle Paul, God tells his people that he wants us to imitate God in our daily lives, out of thanksgiving for what God has done for us in Jesus.

Rather than wearing a white toga style robe, holding a shepherd's staff, or even a crown of thorns, God wants us to imitate Jesus' characteristics rather than the way he might have looked. Instead, he says: *be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one*

*another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.*

*Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Jesus lived a perfect life in your place and then sacrificed that life on the cross to forgive all of your sins. In humility, he did things that he even knew would hurt him so badly because he knew that it was good for you and for your eternal life. He loves you so much that he forgives you even though you don't deserve it.

There are plenty of times when someone is mean to us and, by all accounts, they don't "deserve" our forgiveness. That can make it really hard to forgive them or show them any love. But when it is hard, that's when it is time to imitate Jesus. That's when it is time to forgive them because you have been forgiven!

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Who are all the other children of God?

How should brothers and sisters get along?

How and where can you learn more about Jesus' characteristics?

## PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Thank you for making us your dearly loved children. Give us strength to act like we belong to you. Help us to share your forgiveness when people hurt us and help us to ask for forgiveness when we hurt others. In your name we pray. Amen

**SCRIPTURE:** PROVERBS 9:1-6

**THEME:** Jesus makes us wise for salvation

**SONG:** On My Heart Imprint your Image CW(93) 319/320

**VISUAL:** RSVP card for a wedding

### OBJECT LESSON

It is estimated that about 1 million people got married in the United States over the summer. Planning for many of those weddings took months and months to carry out. They had to figure out the place they were going to get married at, the reception place, the clothes, the bridal party, the menu, the flowers, etc., etc. Those people put in all that time to plan because they wanted to celebrate their wedding day with their closest friends and family members and, in order to know how many people to plan for, they send out cards like this RSVP to invite those people that they love.

### BIBLE TRUTH

God often compares the relationship that he has with his people to a marriage. Jesus is the groom and we are all the brides. But, rather than inviting all of us to come to a banquet where we can eat steak or chicken, he has invited us to heaven. Each week, when we gather for worship, it is like we are looking at an invite or RSVP card. The liturgy in the service tells us what that heavenly banquet is going to be like.

In the book of Proverbs, God calls himself Wisdom and talks about what our feast will look like: Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars. She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has already set her table. She has sent out her servant girls. She calls from the highest point in the city, "Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here." To someone who lacks sense she says, "Come, eat my food, and drink the wine that I have mixed. Abandon your naïve ways and live. Travel the road to understanding." Rather than focusing on eating steak or chicken,

we focus on consuming the Word of God, forgiveness, and strength for our faith. That is the best type of wisdom, the kind that makes us wise for salvation.

### DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What "special clothes" has God prepared for you to wear at the heavenly banquet?

What parts of the worship service prepare you for eternal life?

How can you "eat" the Word of God?

### PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for sending Jesus to teach us wisdom. True wisdom is found in the Bible. Help us to believe that the Bible is the Word of God. Open our hearts so that when we hear the Word we believe that Jesus won forgiveness for all people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

**14<sup>th</sup>** Sunday  
After Pentecost  
Aug 23-29, 2021

**SCRIPTURE:** JOHN 6:60-69

**THEME:** Jesus has the words of eternal life

**SONG:** On My Heart Imprint your Image CW(93) 319/320

**VISUAL:** Phone GPS  
Optional: Map or directions

## OBJECT LESSON

I am terrible with directions! Even if I have been to a place before, I will typically type the address into my phone's GPS and, through the miracle of Bluetooth, that GPS speaks right through my car's speakers and tells me how long it will take, when to turn, and, even if I miss a turn, corrects me and puts me back onto the right path so that I can get to my destination safely!

## BIBLE TRUTH

After Jesus fed the 5000 people, the people kept looking for him to do more miracles and to be their earthly king who would be able to make their lives easier and provide for all of their earthly needs. However, rather than performing more miracles, Jesus taught the people about how they needed a Savior, not more bread or fish!

When the people realized that he wasn't going to perform any more miracles, they all started to leave him. The disciples were becoming afraid and told him to do something. Rather than begging people to stay, Jesus asked his disciples if they wanted to leave, too. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life!"

Like the best kind of directions, Jesus' words tell us how to get to heaven and it is only through him. He tells us trust the work of salvation done for us and follow him! Even when we start to go astray and onto the wrong path, he calls back to us like a GPS and shows us the path to heaven is through Him!

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

When and where does Jesus talk to you?

How and why do people get lost?

Do you ever wish that Jesus would do more miracles for you? Why doesn't he?

## PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Forgive us for wandering away from the path to eternal life. We want to trust in ourselves or in others and forget to rely on you. Help us to cling to your words of eternal life. Through you alone is the path to salvation. In your name we pray, Amen.