

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Scripture: Romans 1:1-17

Memory Verse ~ Romans 1:16: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith...*

Theme of the story: Paul is writing to the people of the church in Rome. He wants to visit them but has not been able to go there. This is about sharing the story of Jesus with others.

Retelling For Young People

Paul said that he is not ashamed of the Gospel. Gospel means "good news." We should not feel bad about talking about Jesus. He said he was to bring the message, first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. Everyone should hear the good news. The good news is that God sent Jesus to teach us to love God and how to love one another.

Another story:

This is a story about a starfish. Starfish cannot live long out of water. They will die if they stay on a beach for too long.

One day a man was walking along a beach when he saw a woman coming from the opposite direction. As he watched, he saw her bend down, pick something up and throw it into the water. As he got closer, he could see that she was picking up a starfish that had washed up on the beach and tossing it back into the ocean.

As the two met, he said, "Good morning, I was wondering, what are you doing?"

The woman said, "I am tossing these starfish back into the ocean because if I don't, they will die."

The man said, "I understand but there must be thousands of starfish on this beach and you can't help all of them. Besides, there are hundreds of miles of beach and the same thing is happening on every one of the beaches. You can't possibly make a difference."

The woman bent down and picked up another starfish and threw it back into the ocean. She smiled at the man and said, "I made a difference to that one."

All over the world there are people like the starfish out of water. They don't know about Jesus. Can we make a difference? Yes, we can! We cannot reach everyone but we can tell those we meet about Jesus and how he taught others about God and God's love for everyone. Each time we tell someone about Jesus, we can say, "I made a difference to that one."

Family discussion: Good news/bad news. Talk about things that are good news. Some examples are a visit from a friend, an invitation to a party or a good grade on a test.

Bad news examples could be things like your friend is sick, a party was cancelled, you did not do as well as you wanted on a test. Talk about what you can do when you hear bad news. It depends on the news but how can we try to turn something bad into something good or at least less bad?

Activities & Crafts:

Hide & Seek

Discuss how we hide when we are embarrassed or ashamed. If we seek to learn about Jesus, we should not be ashamed or embarrassed about telling others of our faith. Play Hide & Seek

Salt Dough Starfish

You will need: 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 cup water, toothpick

In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, water, and salt and mix well using a hand or stand mixer. Form your dough into a small golf ball sized piece, break into 5 pieces and roll into log shapes. Stick the 5 log pieces together to make a star. Smooth out the star and use a toothpick to make a line into each star arm. Use the toothpick to poke everywhere around the line indents on the star. Leave the salt dough out to air-dry! You can paint the starfish if you want once it has dried.

Family Prayer

Dear God,

Help us to make a difference in the lives of the people we meet by sharing the love of Jesus with them.

Amen

