**Sunday School from Home**

**Week of May 24**

The Bible story this week come from Acts 11:19-30. In this passage, we read about the growth of Christianity in Antioch, particularly with Gentile Christians (as opposed to Jewish converts in other areas). Antioch was a large melting pot of a city, with many cultures and races, but believers came together through their faith in Christ. The story also tells us that the church in Antioch gave generously to help support those in Jerusalem during a famine.

* Read the story from any Bible you have at home or online.
* Here is a video that also tells the story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=RxIABELXLa4&feature=emb_logo>
* In the last few weeks we have talked about how the fish symbol was used to represent Christians. How about learning ASL for fish? Look here to learn how to do it: <https://www.signasl.org/sign/fish> Also, here is the sign for Christian: <https://www.signasl.org/sign/christian> Practice these signs so that you can teach them to someone else.
* Play Find the Fish! Use a fish toy or a fish drawn on a piece of paper to play the game. One person hides the fish while the others hide their eyes or wait in a different room. At the signal of the person hiding the fish, everyone begins to look for it. The person who finds the fish is the next one to hide it. This game can be played outdoors. If the players have difficulty finding the fish, they can be given hints (such as saying “hot” and “cold”).
* Make a beaded fish. Bend a chenille stem in half, and then string pony beads onto each end, leaving 1 or 2 inches on each side. Twist the ends together to keep the beads in place and make the tail of the fish. This can also be done with jewelry wire and smaller glass beads if you have older children. Craft and dollar stores generally carry these items, or I can bring you some from the church and drop them on your porch!
* All of the early Christians were different, just as we are all different. What bonds us together is our faith. Take a look at how unique you are by examining your thumbprint. Press you thumb onto a stamp pad, or color it with a marker. Press your thumb onto a piece of paper to get a print. Try having all family members line up their thumbprints on the same paper and notice the differences. No two people have the same fingerprints! Talk about what else makes each person different. Why do you think God created us this way?
* Think about the part of the story when the Christians in Antioch sent help to the people in Judea. Discuss why they did this, and how it compares to what Christians do today to help others. What specific mission opportunities have you been involved in at MLUMC?
* The people in Antioch called the early church members Christians, intending it as an insult, but instead it stuck and we use it today to identify our faith. What nicknames do you have? Who gave them to you and why? What do you like or dislike about your nicknames? For older kids and adults, think about some other names that certain groups were called throughout human history. Have the meanings of any of those names changed from negative to positive (or vice versa)? Use the internet to research this if you like.
* Names in the Bible are often very important, and have special meanings. Sometimes people in the Bible have more than one name, or their name is changed. Read some Bible passages in which a name is changed. Note what the old and new names are, the meaning of the names, and why they were changed. Some to get you started: Genesis 17:15, 15-16 ; Genesis 32:22-28 ; Matthew 16:13-18. There are others! How many can you find? Use research tools to help you.
* Speaking of names, does your name have a special meaning? Is there a specific reason you were given your name? Talk with your family members about why they chose certain names. Research the meaning of your names (first/middle/last). If you were going to change your name, what would it be and why?