**Sunday School from Home**

**Week of May 3**

The Bible story this week is from Acts 4:32-37. In it we learn the disciples decided to share their possessions in order to help one another and for the greater good. This spirit of cooperation and sharing is an excellent inspiration for us all, perhaps now more than ever!

* Read the story from any Bible you have at home or online.
* Discuss with children that the disciples decided together to share what they had, and no one forced them to do so. Talk about what they were able to accomplish as a result of this choice.
* Barnabas was a great example of stewardship; he did not consider what he had to belong to him, but rather he was making good choices regarding the things that belong to God. Discuss what you can do right now to help others (which might look different now than it usually would). Elicit ideas from the family and pick at least one to follow through on. A tangible action is most meaningful for younger children.
* Are you working on memorizing the New Testament books? If not, start this week with the first 5 (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts). Be sure to point out what the gospels all have in common versus Acts (they tell the stories of Jesus’ life on Earth).
* One way to practice teamwork and sharing like the disciples in Acts is to play games that require cooperation. Try playing improvisational games for kids. Here are some ideas (I think the first one will work well, but others may too depending on the number of people in your family and ages of the children): <https://www.childfun.com/recommendations/best-improv-games-for-kids/>
* Similar to the improv game above, try the shared pen technique to write a collective story. Each person gets a piece of paper and a pen. Everyone writes one sentence to begin the story, then passes the paper to the next person. Each person adds to the story they are given before passing again. This can go as long as you wish, or until each story comes to a logical conclusion. The important thing to remember is that no one is allowed to erase or change what another person has written, just go with it and continue on! \*This can also be done with a drawing instead of writing for younger kids. Give each person one minute to add to the drawing before passing it along.
* Create a quilt square cooperative art project. Allow each person to decorate a square of paper before joining them together to make a “quilt.” You might decide ahead of time on a theme or color scheme.
* Just like the disciples shared all they had, you can share food together to make something delicious. Try baking together, and each person is in charge of a different ingredient. Or make a trail mix where each person decides on a different ingredient to mix in to the bowl.
* Try a science experiment in which you mix oil and water with food coloring. Use a mason jar or other clear container with a tight fitting lid. Pour in some water and add a few drops of food coloring. Observe what happens when you mix them with a spoon or by putting on the lid and shaking. Do the same thing using another jar and oil instead of water. Does the food coloring mix with the oil the same way it did with the water? Finally, combine the contents of the two jars. Mix vigorously and observe what happens. Discuss how the water and food coloring “work together” to create something new, but the oil does not “work together” with the water. Should we try to be more like the water or like the oil?
* Have children make encouraging cards or signs to lift the spirits of others who may be feeling lonely or anxious these days. Hang the signs in the windows of your house, or leave the cards for someone who might appreciate them – perhaps your mail carrier, or local first responders. You might also want to mail the cards to friends or relatives who you are unable to visit right now. If you would like to have the name and address of a church member or two who would enjoy receiving a card, please contact me by email: krhoton@mlumc.org