**Sunday School from Home**

**June 14, 2020**

The reading for this week comes from a letter Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. He calls for them to love one another, perhaps especially because there were tensions between the Jewish and Gentile converts.

* Read the passage from your Bible or online.
* Here is a video summary of Paul’s instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLYzxRxwigw>
* Paul gives a lot of instructions in this passage, but if you had to boil it down to one or two words it would be LOVE and PEACE. Learn the sign language signs for these words, and read the passage again. Every time you hear instructions that tell us to love others or live in peace, make the sign that goes with that word.
* Notice Paul’s instructions for showing love to others, no matter what. Traditionally, the Gentiles and Jews did not get along well, and that continued to be a challenge even for those who were Christians (Jewish people who followed Christ and Gentiles who converted to Christianity). Even with their shared faith in Christ, differing backgrounds and cultures contributed to a divide between them. **Older kids and adults** may wish to dive deeper into the conflicts between different groups throughout the Bible or using other resources. Compare these patterns with the climate we see in our world today.
* One way we can show love to others is to show empathy. Try to define the difference between empathy and sympathy, and give examples of each.
* Take some time to talk about (or write about in a journal) a time when you felt challenged to show love and foster peace with someone else. Consider what made it difficult to follow Christ’s teaching in that moment, and what you might do differently if you could go back and do it again.
* School age children might enjoy creating short skits to role play difficult situations and how we might handle them in a Christ-like way. Try writing two different endings for each skit: one that gives an example of what not to do, and one that shows a better way.
* Think about what things in life tend to change – for example, a baby changes into an adult; a caterpillar changes into a butterfly. Come up with as many examples as you can, while reminding children that God changes us for good. Following God’s instructions from the Bible is part of our changing process.
* Use the ideas above to make a matching game. On an index card or other small piece of paper, draw a caterpillar, and draw its match (the butterfly) on another card. Continue until you have a set of 4 or more pairs. Use them to play a game of Memory (turn all of the cards over and one player at a time flips over two cards trying to make a match).
* Show some love to someone who needs it! Make a card or write a letter encouraging someone else the way Paul encourages us in his letter to the Romans. Decorate your card with hearts or other symbols of love, peace, and encouragement. Send it to someone else to let them know you love them. (If you’d like to send your card to a shut-in from our church, let me know so I can match you with someone).
* For some tactile play, use play dough to make hearts and other symbols for love and peace. Try this easy recipe for a dough with a soft feel: mix equal parts conditioner (use cheap hair conditioner that has a scent you like) and corn starch. Work the two ingredients into a dough adding more corn starch a needed to get the consistency you like. For colored dough, add food coloring to the conditioner before mixing in the corn starch. Store in an airtight container.
* Are you still learning the books of the Bible in order? I found three fun resources on Amazon that you might want to try. Order these on your own, or I can get them and let you borrow them.

<https://www.amazon.com/Levels-Biblical-Learning-Flash-Cards/dp/1430067071/ref=sr_1_6?crid=205QCJU90E97O&dchild=1&keywords=books+of+the+bible+games+for+kids&qid=1591815100&sprefix=books+of+the+bible+game%2Caps%2C161&sr=8-6>

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<https://www.amazon.com/Fun-Express-Information-Educational-Learning/dp/B07QGH4HT5/ref=sr_1_30?crid=205QCJU90E97O&dchild=1&keywords=books+of+the+bible+games+for+kids&qid=1591815560&sprefix=books+of+the+bible+game%2Caps%2C161&sr=8-30>