



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

The Lemonade Stand

Children's Story

Cycle A, Proper 8

Title: The Lemonade Stand
Author: Elsie Rempel
Church: Charleswood Mennonite
Church, Winnipeg, MB
Theme: We welcome Jesus when we
welcome God's Children
Text: Matthew 10:40-42

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder how much lemonade the new children sold that day.
- I wonder why Jesus taught that it is important to be welcoming.
- I wonder how we can be welcoming to new people.
- I wonder how we can help people who are poor and hungry.

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Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children to their special place and time in the worship service. Ask them if they would like a cold glass of lemonade on a hot day and if any of them have sold lemonade to make money. How did it go? Have they ever wished they had money to buy some lemonade when children on your street were selling it? Tell them that's what will happen in today's story. The ideas for this story come from Matthew 10 (Show them the place in your Bible) where Jesus is telling his disciples how important it is to welcome and give a cold drink to little ones. Encourage the children to join you in preparing your bodies and hearts to worship Jesus through this story.

Story:

Sonya was playing outside on the sidewalk with her little brother, Luke. They were drawing chalk pictures and having a lot of fun. They were having so much fun drawing designs and funny

people that they didn't even notice the new children down the street set up a lemonade stand.

It was really hot outside. Suddenly, they noticed how hot and thirsty they were. As they got up to go inside and get a drink of water, they saw the new children and the lemonade stand. So, what do you think they did?...

That's right; they walked right up to the lemonade stand and said hi to the new children. The lemonade looked so-o-o good. There was a big sign that said, "5 cents a glass." But they didn't have any money in their pockets. The children who were selling the lemonade were very friendly to them, even if they didn't have money to buy their lemonade. They said, "Our lemonade is made from real lemons! We're selling this lemonade so that thirsty people can have a nice drink and so that we get more money for helping poor people not be hungry. We got this idea in our church. We will bring the money we earned back to church next Sunday, just like other families in our church will, so we can support a soup kitchen that feeds people who are poor and hungry. Helping poor people makes Jesus happy. We like it, too. Go home and ask your mom or dad if you can have some money for lemonade. It's only five cents a glass."

Sonya and Luke ran home and told their dad about the friendly children down their street. They told him how these new children were selling delicious lemonade, made from real lemons, so that they could give more money to a soup kitchen that feeds people who are poor and hungry. Their dad was happy to hear about their kind and friendly new neighbours. He was glad that they were people who wanted to please Jesus. He also liked the idea of having a glass of real lemonade. So, taking his wallet along, he walked down the street with Sonya and Luke to meet the new children and buy some lemonade. When they got there he bought five glasses of lemonade for... (you're right, 25 cents!), so that all of them, even the children who were selling the lemonade, could have a cool and delicious drink together while they chatted and got to know each other.

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for lemons, and for lemonade, and for friendly neighbours. Thank you for being so welcoming and for showing us how to welcome others. Please help us grow in the joy of being welcoming and helpful people. Amen.