



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Child Teachers

Children's Story

Cycle A, Proper 9

Title: Child Teachers
Author: Elsie Rempel
Church: Charleswood Mennonite
Church, Winnipeg, MB
Theme: Jesus helps us know God
like children do.
Text: Matthew 11:16–19, 25-30

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder what else Sandy learned from her Sunday school class.
- I wonder why children understand some things better than grown ups.
- I wonder what you could teach us about loving and following Jesus.
- I wonder if you would be willing to share some of the things you know with us, like Sandy's class was.

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Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children and ask them to sit so that they can see the rest of the congregation because the rest of the congregation will be part of the children's time today. Once everyone is settled, ask the congregation, "Will everyone in our church today who is a teacher, please raise their hands?" Then turn to the children and ask them, "Are any of you children teachers? No? What do you think makes a person a teacher?" Tell them that to be a teacher, a person has to understand things well enough to explain them to someone else. People who like explaining and who learn to understand a lot of things sometimes get jobs as teachers, but all of us can teach others about the things we understand. Ask the children what they understand really well. Tell them that today's Bible reading from Matthew (show them the place in your Bible) includes a lesson about children and what they can teach grown-ups. Encourage them to imagine themselves

on Jesus' lap while he surprises his disciples with this lesson about children. Imagine that the grown-ups here in church are the disciples whom Jesus is surprising.

Story:

Sandy was teaching Sunday school. Her lesson was about a curious conversation that Jesus was having with his disciples. It sounded like Jesus was frustrated that people didn't understand and accept the good news he was teaching them about living God's way. On that day, Jesus had surprised the grown-ups who were listening to him by saying that God helped children understand things that wise grown-ups didn't understand. Sandy wondered, how could she teach her Sunday School children a lesson about grown-ups understanding less than children. She was a grown-up. They were children. How could a grown-up teach children about teaching grown-ups. So she prayed and waited for Jesus to help her know what to do. After a while, she felt like Jesus was encouraging her to spend her Sunday school time learning instead of teaching. So she did. She told her children that she needed to learn what they knew about loving Jesus and living God's way. They were a little surprised, because usually Sandy taught them stories about Jesus, but after they prayed together they started telling her about how God lived in their hearts and loved everybody and wanted them to share. They said it was easy to trust Jesus because he was God's son. It really wasn't very complicated. Sandy thanked them and gave them each a hug. Then they had their snack time. That Sunday morning, Sandy learned that adults could stop making things so complicated and difficult, and could learn a lot about loving and following Jesus from children. She agreed with what Jesus said. Children can be teachers.

Prayer:

Let's light this Jesus candle and be quiet around it for a minute. (Light the candle) Then I'll ask you children to teach us what God has helped you understand about loving and following Jesus. I hope you will help us. (If you are unsure about getting a response from your children, call some of them in advance and ask them to think and pray about it during the preceding week.) ... Thank you for helping us know and love Jesus a little better today. You have been a blessing to us. Let's finish this part of our worship by praying together, "Jesus, thank you for knowing about children, and helping them know and love and trust you. Please help us adults to know and love and trust you like they do. Amen."