



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Passing on Candy & Kindness

Children's Story

Cycle A, Proper 19

Title: Passing on Candy & Kindness
Author: Joanne Peters
Church: Bergthal Mennonite Church, Didsbury AB
Theme: Jesus is kind and helps us; this helps us be kind and help others.
Text: Matthew 18:21-35

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder how the young man felt when the candy store owner told him he didn't have to pay back the money.
- I wonder why he still wanted money back from his friend.
- I wonder how his friend felt when the young man had to work in the store.

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Props:

A small, **allergy-sensitive** treat, such as licorice, to share with the children will help finish the story well. This story was written to be a narrated drama, so invite a few Jr. or Sr. youth to act out the story as you read it. Simple costumes such as a large hat, fake glasses, an oversized jacket, etc., draw the children's attention. Or, the story can simply be read to the children.

Gathering Activity:

Begin by welcoming the children and telling them how glad you are that they wanted to come and listen to your story. Remind them that this story is being told to help them worship and that in worship we pray, and learn, and enjoy God's goodness. Open your Bible to Matthew and explain that the ideas for this story come from a story Jesus told. Introduce the theme with questions such as:

Have you ever loaned something to a friend?

What sorts of things might you let a friend borrow?

Would you expect to get your things back? Why?

What would you do if they couldn't give it back to you when you asked for it?

Listen to the story Matthew wrote down. Now, let's see what happens in our story.

Story:

Once there was a candy store owner. *First character enters.* She owned the most lovely, scrumptious, sweet-smelling, yummy candy store in the entire world. People came from far and wide to see, to smell, and especially to taste her fabulous treats. One day, a young man came into her store. *Second character enters.*

"Please, Miss" he pleaded. "May I have some of that lovely, scrumptious, sweet-smelling, yummy candy?"

"Of course!" she said, and filled a large bag with candy and gave it to the young man.

"That will be one hundred dollars," she said kindly. "How would you like to pay for it?"

"Pay? . . . P-P- P-PAY?" stammered the young man. "I don't have any money, but the candy looks so lovely, scrumptious, sweet-smelling and yummy. Could I please take it now and pay you later?"

"All right," said the kind candy store owner. "I'll send for you when your bill is due."

The young man gave her his address and left the store. Soon he met his friend who looked longingly at the lovely, scrumptious, sweet-smelling, yummy candy. *Third character enters.*

"Please", asked the friend. "Could I have some of that lovely scrumptious, sweet-smelling candy?"

"You can have one piece for a dollar," said the young man.

"But I have no money!" protested the friend. "Won't you please let me have some and I'll pay you later?"

"Fine," said the young man. "I'll give you one now and send for you when it is time to pay me."

The friend took and ate a piece of the lovely, scrumptious, sweet smelling, yummy candy. It was delicious. *They walk off stage.*

After a few weeks had passed, the candy store owner sent for the young man. *Second character re-enters.* "You owe me a hundred dollars," she reminded him. "It is time for you to pay me or give back the candy."

"But I haven't got the money and I've eaten the candy!" cried the young man. "Please, I'm begging you! Give me more time and I promise I will pay you back everything I owe you."

The store owner smiled at the man and said, "I still have plenty of lovely, scrumptious, sweet-smelling, yummy candy in my store and I am willing to share some of it with you. I can tell that you don't have much money. Keep the candy as my gift to you."

"Oh thank you, **thank you, THANK YOU!**" cried the man as he happily danced out of the store. As he was dancing, he bumped into his friend. *Third character re-enters.*

"Hey!" said the young man. "You still owe me a dollar. It is time for you to pay me or give back the candy."

"But I still haven't got the money and I ate the candy!" cried his friend. "Please, I'm begging you! Give me more time and I promise I will pay back the dollar I owe you."

"NO WAY, NO HOW, NUH-UH," bellowed the young man. "You either pay me right now or you'll be sorry!" The young man looked and sounded very angry.

The store owner overheard this through her open door. She came storming out of her front door. "That's enough!" she scolded. "You begged me for more time to pay the **hundred** dollars you owed me and I was kind enough to tell you to keep what I gave you as a gift. Then, the next minute, I hear you yelling at your friend because she wasn't able to pay you back **one dollar**. Why weren't you kind to your friend like I was kind to you? Guess what?!? You've made me change my mind. You will have to pay me back every penny of that one hundred dollars. You will earn that money by scrubbing my floors!"

Young man sadly follows the store owner off-stage. His friend exits in another direction.

Prayer:

Thank you for this story about the importance of passing on kindness. Help us be like the candy store owner. Amen.

Finale:

To help us remember to pass on God's kindness to others I am going to give each of you two little treats. Please enjoy one for yourself and share the other one with someone who didn't come up for this story. Thanks for helping me pass on a sign of God's kindness.