



Giving Up to Succeed

Children's Story

Cycle C, Proper 18

Title: Giving Up to Succeed
Author: Miriam S.R. Wakeman
Church: Home Street Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text: Luke 14: 25-33
Theme: Think about the cost of being a disciple before you become one.

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder why some people try so hard to get good at a sport.
- I wonder if I will ever try so hard that I will give up eating treats.
- I wonder what things Jesus' disciples try really hard to get good at.
- I wonder what the rewards are of trying really hard to live like Jesus did.

Gathering Activity:

Good morning, children, it is so good to see you. I hope you are well. I have some questions for you that will help us get ready for our story. Do you know what a disciple is? What do you think the *cost of discipleship* means? These are hard questions, but that's what God's Word is about for us today. (*Show them the Scripture selection in Luke.*) How many of you watched the Winter Olympics last winter? Do you think you could ever do what the athletes did? If you have, that will help you understand about the cost of discipleship. But now, let's get ourselves ready to listen. Do you remember how we do that? That's right, we settle into a comfortable position and connect with that quiet spot inside where we know that God is near. (*Pause*) Are you ready? Here is the story.

This Children's Story is part of a larger story archive available as a resource to teachers, ministers, and others of Mennonite Church Canada ©2010. Posted by permission of the author. Edited by Elsie Rempel, director of Christian Nurture for Mennonite Church Canada

Story:

The Olympic athletes had to give up lots of things to become good in their sports. They had to practice every day, even when they would rather have gone out to play with their friends. They could not eat junk food because they needed to keep their bodies healthy. They had to get up early in the morning to train for their sport. Some even had to go to a different type of school so that they would have enough time to practice and train. The athletes had to work hard to get to the Olympics.

Probably, the athletes thought about what they would have to give up if they wanted to become good enough to go to the Olympics. Other athletes worked just as hard but were not good enough to make the team. Some were even injured during their training. Then they had to work even harder to achieve their goal of going to the Olympics. Having to give up all of these things is the cost of becoming a good athlete.

In the Scripture read from Luke today, Jesus tells people to think about the cost of being his disciple before they become one. What do you think are some of the things that Jesus' disciples have to give up? (Should not hurt feelings, need to do what is right, not what is popular, etc.)

I want you to remember that although being a disciple costs something, the reward for being one is great and worth the things you need to give up. Listen for other costs and rewards of being a disciple in today's worship and talk about them with your family and friends after the service.

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, that there are many good things that are worth trying our very best for. Thank you that you tried your very best to show us God's loving way. Please help us be good disciples and try our best, too. Amen.