



Children's Story

Cycle A, Easter 5

Together, even when we can't SEE each other

Title:	Together, even when we can't see each other
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Church:	Charleswood Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text:	John 14:1-14
Theme:	Just like Jesus lovingly prepared his disciples for his departure, his followers can stay connected through loving actions.

Gathering Activity:

Warmly invite the children to come forward for the children's time to connect with the worship theme and with God, whom we gather to worship each Sunday. In today's Scripture reading from John 14, Jesus comforts his disciples who are worried about what will happen when Jesus leaves them. (*Show them the text in your Bible.*) When we really love someone, like our moms and dads, we don't want them to leave us either. But sometimes, they have to. That's what happens to Karly in today's story. Let's get ourselves ready to hear this story with our hearts by imagining ourselves onto the loving lap of Jesus.

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Imagination Exercise

Karly is four years old. Her dad is holding her and she is crying, hard. Karly is crying because her mom is sick and has gone away to the hospital. Karly is worried about her mom and wants her to feel better. Her dad is worried, too. He is so worried about Karly's mom that he wants to stay with her in the hospital. So, Karly's dad made arrangements for Karly to stay with her grandparents for a few weeks. He just told her about this and that's why she is crying so hard. She will be gone for more sleeps than she can count on her fingers!

Karly loves her grandparents, and, even before her dad reminds her, knows that they love her. She knows they will do good things with her, and give her yummy treats, but she is really worried about being away from her mom and dad for such a long time. She feels safest when she is with her mom and dad. How can she feel safe and know they still love her if she is so far away from them? That's what she tells her dad between her sobs.

Karly's dad gives her a long and gentle hug, and cries with her for a while. He prays for God to help them with their problem. Then he gets an idea.

Because of hospital rules they won't always be able to talk with Karly on the computer, or on the phone, but they can leave her with a special reminder of their love for her, that will always be available. He and Karly's mom will each sing a favourite song onto Karly's Tablet and mark it with a special icon. Then, when Karly feels lonely, she can pick up her Tablet, open up the icon, lay the Tablet on her chest, and feel their love for her in the sounds of their voices singing her favourite songs.

Karly likes that idea, and stops crying for a bit. And then she has an idea. When she wants to tell them something, she will tell her grandma or grandpa to write an email to them. Karly's dad really likes that idea a lot. They are still

both sad, but now they will have ways of knowing they are connected with each other by their love.

And that's what they did. Karly listened to those songs a lot, especially at bed time. And her grandma sent regular emails to Karly's mom and dad. And, after three long weeks, Karly's mom was well enough to come back home. Her grandma and grandpa brought Karly back home, too, and stayed there to help until her mom was completely healthy again. Being back together was even better than hearing her on the Tablet!

Wondering questions:

- I wonder if the songs on the Tablet made Karly feel like her mom and dad were with her.
- I wonder if God's great big love for us can hide inside things like parents singing songs for us on a Tablet.
- I wonder if Karly's sadness is like the disciples' sadness about missing Jesus.
- I wonder how else Jesus can help us know God's great big love.

Prayer

Thank you Jesus, for loving us, even when we can't see you. Thank you, for helping Karly's loving parents find a way to help her know they were still connected by their love for each other. Thank you for loving each one of us like Karly's parents loved her. Amen.