



Children's Story

Year B, Proper 19

Title: Discipleship Check List
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Church: St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, St. Jacobs, ON
Text: Mark 8: 27-38 (especially 34-38)
Theme: Signs of discipleship today.

Needed:

Chart paper and marker to write down the Discipleship Check List, and pictures to correspond with each item on the list.

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The Discipleship Check List

Gathering Activity:

Invite the children to put their thinking hats on and to gather for the children's time. Welcome them warmly as you settle into comfortable positions and prepare your hearts and minds to learn more about following Jesus. Open your Bible to Mark 8 and explain that in today's Gospel reading Jesus is teaching his disciples how to be good followers of Jesus. Our children's time will try and do the same thing, but in ways that are easy to understand and act out.

Activity:

What do you think of when you hear the word disciple? What do disciples do? They follow Jesus and do what Jesus would do. Raise your hand if you think there are still disciples today. Yes, many disciples are alive and active today. In fact, we are in a room that is full of them right now. We are here because we are disciples, or followers, of Jesus. Jesus worshiped God and so do we. There are disciples all over the world. All followers of Jesus do certain things that make us disciples. No matter what language we speak or what country we come from, disciples do at least four of the same things.

This morning we will practice an action for each of those four things on my list to help us remember them. The first item on my discipleship check list is learning. Disciples read the Bible and study it together to learn about God and what God is doing in our lives. When we gather as a church we spend time learning. Here is an action we can do to show learning: Point to the side of your forehead with your index finger. Which of these pictures belongs with the word “learning”?

The second item on the list is prayer. As disciples, we spend time praying so we can talk to God and listen to God. By praying, we hope to learn what it is that God needs us to do. Here is an action we can use to show prayer: Palms together held in front of chest. Which of these pictures belongs beside the word “prayer”?

The third item on the list is worship. When we learn together and sing and pray to show our love for God, we call that worship. By worshipping together we encourage each other as disciples, and God’s Spirit encourages us to share God’s love with others. Worship reminds us about how much God loves us. We can use our hands to show worship like this: Hands held palm up with arms extended upwards. Which of these pictures belongs beside the word “worship”?

The fourth item on our list is service. As disciples, we are helpers, like Jesus was. We help each other when other disciples need help. We help people around us who may not have food or a house to live in. We help friends, strangers, neighbours, and people in other parts of the world. Many times disciples help without being asked; they help where they can because they know helping others makes God happy. One way we serve God is by worshipping. That’s why we call it a worship

service. We can show service with our hands like this: Hands held palm up arms stretched forwards just below shoulder level. This last picture belongs beside the word “serve”.

All of these things make God smile. God uses disciples every day as partners in sharing God’s love in our world. Let’s review our actions and use them when we pray.

Consider inviting the adults to join you in this prayer with actions.

Prayer:

O God, thank you for using us to help you do your work.

Point to the side of your forehead with your index finger. As disciples we will try to learn more about you every day. We will learn so that we might be able to understand how to work together with each other and you.

Palms together held in front of chest. We will pray so that we might hear your voice guiding us.

Hands held palm up with arms extended upwards. We will worship to show you that we love you.

Hands held palm up arms stretched forwards just below shoulder level. We will help those around us to spread your love. We will show and tell others how much you care about them. Amen.