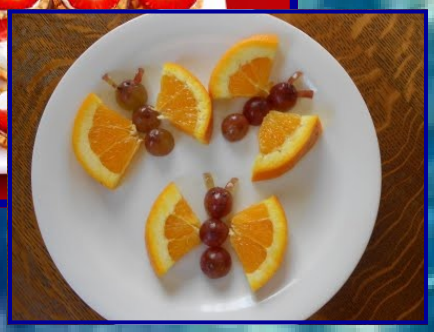
Delicious Bible Study

2017



Edited by DaeHwa Park

June 18 2017

My dearest young friends in Jesus:

You are right in the middle of Summer, a season of growth. All the living creatures seem to be busy working in God's creation, as we see trees get green, flowers bloom, butterflies and bumble bees travel flowers to flowers. Fruits of the tree ripen. Birds in the sky and fish in water grow in number. So do we the children of God.

I want you to grow not only in stature but also in the love of God both between and on Sundays. With my prayer for your growth, I put some fun activities in this little booklet, entitled "Delicious Bible Study."

On Sundays, while praising God, you will have an option for a fun cooking event with God's Holy Word. Encounter the words—fun story of God's love throughout the ages. Have a vivid experience with refreshments or food that the people in the bible enjoyed with several significant moments of God's creation.

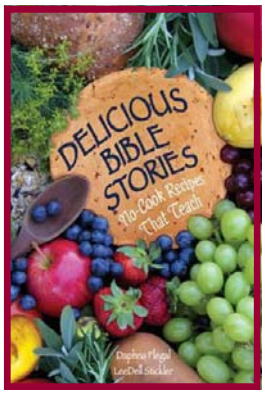
While cooking, learn God's love with the mind of Jesus, caring, loving, and serving. You will have an opportunity to serve people with the refreshments you make each Sunday at the fellowship hour immediately after worship service.

Join this fun study event and have an awesome and great summer!
Peace,

Rev DaeHwa Park

Rev. DaeHwa Park
Pastor
Serving a multi-site of
The United Methodist Church of Savage, Savage, MD
Lanham United Methodist Church, Lanham, MD

Special Thanks to
"Volunteers"
who love children and host
"Delicious Bible Study"



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1. **Radiant Sun for Everyone Fruit Snack as God's Grace for the Righteous and the Unrighteous**

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Objectives:

- Children learn about the true meaning of God's grace for all.
- Encounter Jesus' Teaching on the Mount, telling about God's love toward everyone, including the right-eous and the unrighteous
- Help young children learn about the ultimate purpose of the gospel—deepening right relationship with God from the word for "being righteous!"

Menu for the day: Radiant Sun for Everyone Fruit Snack

Text in Context: Matthew 5:43-48

- *Read the scripture and let the students talk about our attitude to others – strangers, new friends at school, visitors, new neighbors, people of different culture, and different beliefs,*
- *While talking about our attitude to others, teacher/ volunteer helps young children learn about "a gift of hospitality" as the anticipated behavior of the children of God.*

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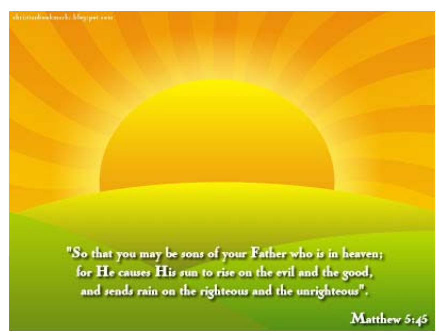
Matthew 5:43 - 48 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love
your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 **But I tell you: Love
your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** 45 that
you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to
rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous
and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what re-
ward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47
And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more
than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, there-
fore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



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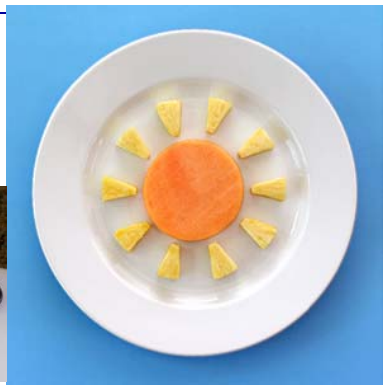
Notes:

Cooking Event: Radiant Sun for Everyone Fruit Snack

Prep 5 minutes; Ready in 10 minutes



[Ingredients]

Original recipe makes 24 servings

3 cantaloupes or honeydew melons
1 Pineapple
24 white paper plates

[Kitchen Wares You Need*]

A knife, cutting board, biscuit cutter or circle cookie cutter, 24 paper plates

**Please use them from Church's Kitchen and make sure of cleaning and placing as they were after the cooking event. Thanks!"*

[Directions]

1. **When shape cutting from cantaloupes or honeydew melons, cut slices from the side to have a good cutting surface.**
2. **Use a biscuit cutter or circle cookie cutter to cut out the middle of the sun.**
3. **Cut up pineapple slices for sun rays**
4. **Serve a sun on a paper plate. A teacher or a young student may explain for customers before serving.**

Serve Radiant Sun for Everyone fruit snack for the worshippers during fellowship hour.

Everyone including church members and visitors of the day is invited to fellowship!

- A young child may offer a prayer for refreshments and fellowship.
- Other children serves a dish for all participants.
- While sharing refreshments, all may greet with one another!

☝ Teacher's Help - Love Like God

Love Them? Are You Sure?

It is easy to love someone who loves you. But try to love someone who doesn't love you. Try being nice to someone who is mean. It's not easy! But that's what God wants you to do.

When you love your enemy, others will notice. When you are kind to someone who is mean, people will see it. They will know God is helping you. That kind of love takes God's help!

Watch for your next chance to love someone who doesn't love you. Be nice to someone who is mean to you. That will surprise them. Ask God how you can show them love. Then do something kind for them. God will help you love others. All you have to do is ask him.

Who is mean to you? Will you let God help you love that person?

ASK YOURSELF!

Tell your teacher about friends you would like to welcome. Invite them to church and other events in the church. Jot down the names of your friends, so that our church can help them learn about Jesus and His teaching through Sunday school program, beginning in September.

While cooking event, a mother or a teacher, may share a thought on what she or he is thinking when preparing food or refreshment for others.

(example) "Children, when I prepare for a meal, I am thinking ...."

Help children learn about "a heart of God" like that of a mother or a wonderful cook who thinks of those who will enjoy meals. While teaching, please have in mind a biblical lesson:
"He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Matthew 5:45)

"Accommodation: Welcome You As You Are!"

A Ministry Initiative

Our church would like to promote an idea of "accommodation" as our intentional attitude to welcome our friends and neighbors. Jesus welcomed everyone to his good tiding for God's Kingdom without any bias, because everyone is created in God's image.

We welcome all just as they are. The big and the small! The strong and the weak! The rich and the poor! The healthy and the sick! We love all as Jesus Christ loved all.

Children, take a look around those who need our attention in your neighborhood? Help them understand our heart to welcome them in our church. If they do not have their own church home, invite them. Help them feel home here at our church.

Further Study

[Sermon on the Mount - Jesus' Inaugural Speech according to Matthew]

The **Sermon on the Mount** is a collection of sayings and teachings of Jesus, which emphasizes his moral teaching found in the Gospel of Matthew (chapters 5, 6 and 7). It is the first of the Five Discourses of Matthew and takes place relatively early in the Ministry of Jesus and preached in Galilee.

*"Sermon on the Mount" By **Carl Heinrich Bloch***
(May 23, 1834 – February 22, 1890)

The Sermon is the longest piece of teaching from Jesus in the New Testament. It includes some of the best known teachings of Jesus, such as the Beatitudes, and the widely recited Lord's Prayer. To most believers in Jesus, the Sermon on the Mount contains the central tenets of Christian discipleship.

The last verse of chapter 5 is considered to be a focal point that summarizes the teaching of the sermon: "be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect", advising his disciples and followers to seek the path towards perfection and the Kingdom of Heaven.

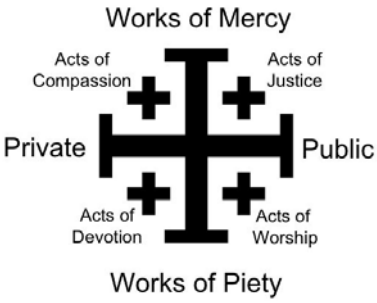
Read "Sermon on the Mount" during the week!

[Means of Grace of "Methodists"]

John Wesley, a British pastor and founder of Methodist movement - believed God provided the means to follow Christ in his way of love by learning and practicing "works of piety" and "works of mercy. Our journey is constantly praising God (act of worship), experiencing God (act of devotion & study), serving God (act of compassion) and sharing God (act of justice).

"Righteousness" or "Being Righteous"

The word for "righteousness" or "being righteous" used in the bible doesn't simply mean good behavior. It is a relational language. "Righteousness" indicates a right relationship with God. "Being righteous" is what is expected from the faithful children of God. Noah (Genesis 6:9) and Job (Job 1:1) are known as righteous persons. Blameless were they among the people. They walked with God. They feared God and shunned evil. "Being righteous" shall be the biblical notion of spiritual maturity toward perfection.



This summer is a good time to make a plan for your own faithful practices as people called "Methodists!" Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48)

John Wesley (1703-1791) and Early Methodists

2. Berry Cracker Star Spangled Banner, Celebrating Christian Freedom

Sunday, July 2, 2017

Objectives:

- Celebrating The 4th of July, children learn about true meaning of "Christian Freedom."
- Encounter the epistle lesson of Apostle Paul concerning "Christian Freedom" from Galatians 3;22-4:7
- Help young people learn about true freedom from their faith in Jesus Christ

Menu for the day: Berry Cracker Star Spangled Banner

Text in Context: Galatians 3:22-4:7

- *Read the scripture and let the students draw underline on the lessons for Christian Freedom.*

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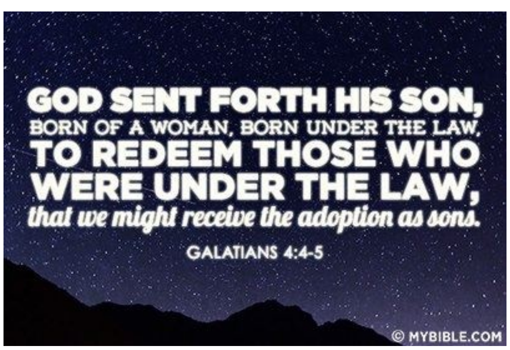
Galatians 3:22 - 4:7 22 But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what
was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. 23 Before this
faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. 24 So the law was put
in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that faith has come, we are no longer
under the supervision of the law. 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who
were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor
free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's
seed, and heirs according to the promise. **4:1** What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no
different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. 2 He is subject to guardians and trustees until the
time set by his father. 3 So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the
world. 4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem
those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of
his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and
since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.



Cooking Event: **Berry Cracker Star Spangled Banner**

Prep 10 minute; Ready in 10 minutes

On a large white plate make a star spangled banner with crackers.

[Ingredients]

- 2 boxes of crackers
- Whipping cream
- 1 lbs of Blackberries
- 2 lbs of strawberries

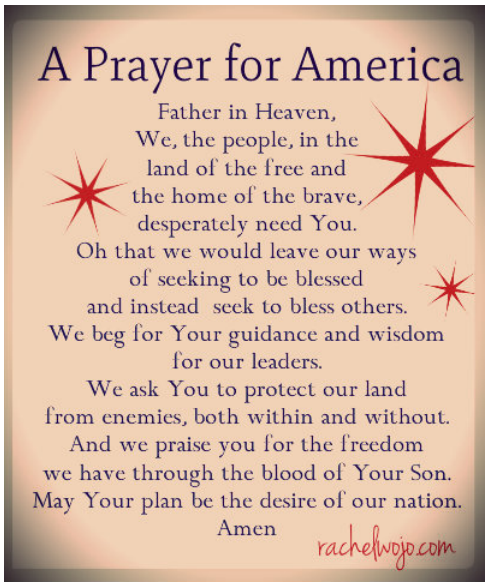
[Preparation]

1. Line up crackers on a large white plate
2. Wash gently black berry and strawberry with running water
3. Slice berries as shown in the picture
4. Spread whipping cream on the crackers and place sliced berries on each cracker

Serve Berry Cracker Star Spangled Banner for the worshippers during fellowship hour.

- An elderly member of the church may be asked for grace for the fellowship.

Please feel free to use
"A Prayer for America"
in your own place of celebration of The 4th of July!



☝ Teacher's Help - **Celebrating "True" Christian Freedom**

All of God's children are one. No one is better than anyone else. What a happy thought! You are just the right color. You are just the right size. God made you just the way he wanted you to be. God made you just as good as everyone else.

God says that. But life is not always like that. You live in a broken world. God's children are not perfect yet. Sometimes you may feel like you're not as good as someone else. Someone may think that you are the wrong color. Or too little. Or too tall. But that's wrong. God is right. All his children are equal in his sight.

With God's help, his children will understand. Someday God's children will teach each other as equals. Until then, think this happy thought. God loves his children. Through Jesus they're all equal in his sight.

Because you belong to Christ Jesus, you are all one (Galatians 3:28)!

Some Things To Think About

Does skin color make a difference to Christians? Should it? Does "different" mean "unequal"? Does being equal mean you have to be the same?

Some Things To Do

Make friends with a Christian who is different from you. And talk about words you can find in the tree!
How will you bring these values to our community?

Happy 4th of July!

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." (from "Declaration of Independence," 1776)

Before there was a constitution … before there was even a United States of America… "We, the People" were a people at war. Throughout most of history, and in civilizations around the world, people had been ruled by the strong and reigned over by those simply born into power and privilege. Few even questioned that the right of rules to rule came from on high. Nor did they challenge that it was the place of the people to obey. Yet great thinkers had contemplated humankind 's tendency to surrender to its worst impulses of greed, fear, violence, and lust for power. … (From The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation by Jonathan Hennessey)

Paul's Letter to Galatians: Christian Freedom

(From "Galatians," Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary, pp. 832-833)

In his pastoral letter to Galatians, Apostle Paul talks about "true" freedom. Freedom he argues about is not simply from a political oppression of the Roman rules. As an act of salvation, Paul mentions true freedom is from the bondage of sin and death. This freedom is a gift from God through Jesus for all—Jews and Gentiles. Before the gospels were written, Apostle Paul suggests a serious spiritual concern of the early Christian community - "Can the Gentiles who were not circumcised be received as the children of Abraham?"

Apostle Paul addresses true meaning of the gospel of Jesus Christ: Justification comes, not by law but through the Spirit by faith. It is not an event on which the Christian may look back with pride, but a goal to which he looks forward in hope (Galatians 5:5-6).

Freedom is not to be confused with libertinism. Freedom from the legalism of life under the law does not mean release from responsibility but constitutes a summons to the greater responsibilities of life under grace.

3. Kiwi Lollipop - Faith of Mustard Seeds

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Objectives:

- Children learn about the unlimited power of faith
- Encounter Jesus' Parable on Mustard Seed from Matthew 13:31-32
- Help young children understand that Kingdom of God is established from small act of faith

Menu for the day: Kiwi Lollipop

Text in Context: Matthew 13:31-32

- *Read the scripture and memorize the verse.*

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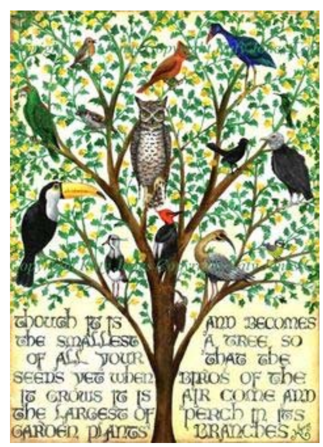
Matthew 13:31-32 [31] He [Jesus] told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. [32] Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."



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Notes:

Cooking Event: Kiwi Lollipop

Prep 10 minutes; Ready to serve in 5 minutes

[Ingredients] Original recipe makes 50 servings

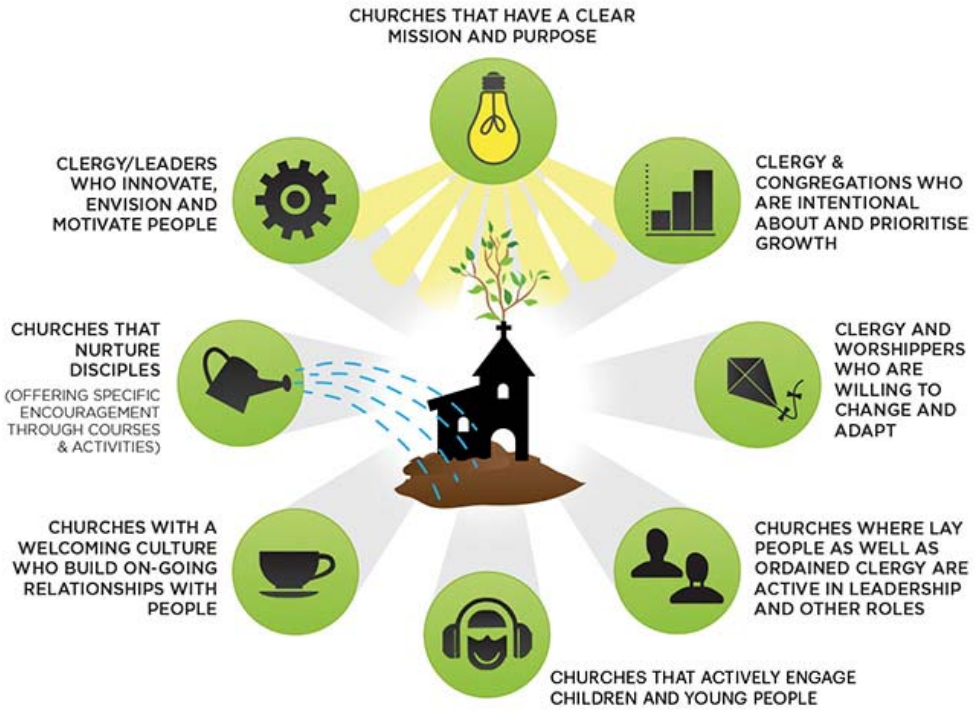
- 10 kiwis - peeled and chopped in 5 slices
- 50 sticks or tooth picks

[Directions]

In a plate or dish place sliced kiwi with handles.

Serve Kiwi Lollipop for the worshippers during fellowship hour.

Summer is a time for growth! Let us talk about growth of our church.



Teacher's Help - Kingdom of God Begins with Small Things

Small Grows Tall

Do you remember when you were small? You looked at people's knees all day. You had to sit on a booster seat. Every body looked down at you.

But you grew. And grew. And grew. Pretty soon you didn't need a booster seat. And then you got big enough to look down at the little kids!

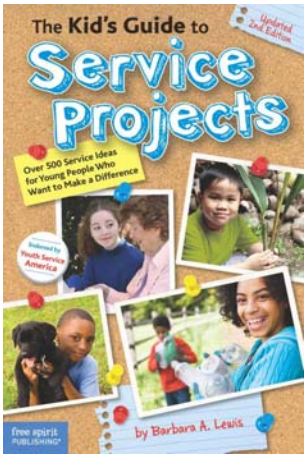
The kingdom of heaven is just like that. It starts out small, like a tiny mustard seed. But it grows and grows. God's kingdom spreads in the world when people come to know Jesus. And when you love Jesus, it grows tall and strong in your heart too.

So plant the seed of Jesus in your heart now. And the kingdom of God will go from small—to tall!

Ask Yourself

What does Jesus say that the kingdom of heaven is like?
Where does the kingdom of heaven grow?

Teacher can tell of small event or action for God's Kingdom to grow and prosper!



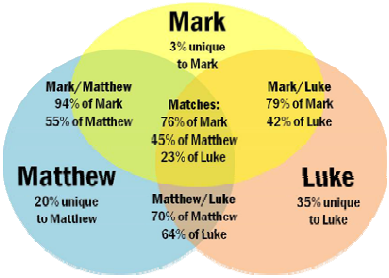
Further Study

Parables

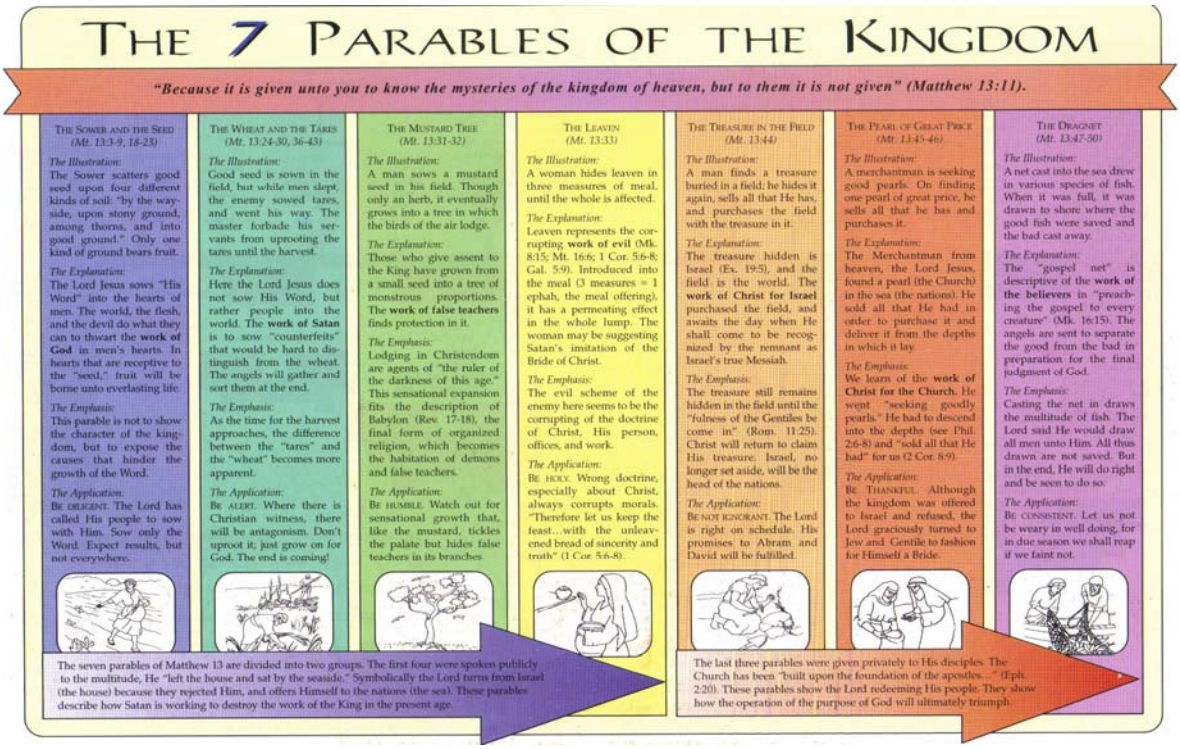
(from *NIV First-Century Study Bible*, p. 1213)

Parables were short stories that had a moral or ethical point related to matters of Jewish law and interpretation. Jesus' parables were often misunderstood, even by his own disciples, and often had several layers of meaning. The use of parables was popular in all stages of Jewish literature, from the Bible to the writings of the rabbis.

The Parables of Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 10)



In the gospels the parables play a significant role, especially unpacking the mystery of God's Kingdom. Jesus used the parables for the explanation of God's Kingdom he brings forth among the people. Each gospel includes a series of the parables: Parable or sowers, mustard seeds, weeds and wheat, hidden treasure, etc. Mark testifies to the secret of the coming of God's Kingdom through the parables. The parables in Luke emphasize God's Kingdom as socio-economic justice for all. Matthew understands them to what God is doing in Jesus as a fulfillment of prophecy.



THE 7 PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

"Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given" (Matthew 13:11).

THE SOWER AND THE SEED (*Mt. 13:3-9, 18-23*)

The Illustration: The Sower scatters good seed upon four different kinds of soil: "by the wayside, upon stony ground, among thorns, and into good ground." Only one kind of ground bears fruit.

The Explanation: The Lord Jesus sows "His Word" into the hearts of men. The world, the flesh, and the devil do what they can to thwart the **work of God** in men's hearts. In hearts that are receptive to the "seed," fruit will be borne unto everlasting life.

The Emphasis: This parable is not to show the character of the kingdom, but to expose the causes that hinder the growth of the Word.

The Application: BE DILIGENT. The Lord has called His people to sow with Him. Sow only the Word. Expect results, but not everywhere.

THE WHEAT AND THE TARES (*Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43*)

The Illustration: Good seed is sown in the field, but while men slept, the enemy sowed tares, and went his way. The master forbade his servants from uprooting the tares until the harvest.

The Explanation: Here the Lord Jesus does not sow His Word, but rather people into the world. The **work of Satan** is to sow "counterfeits" that would be hard to distinguish from the wheat. The angels will gather and sort them at the end.

The Emphasis: As the time for the harvest approaches, the difference between the "tares" and the "wheat" becomes more apparent.

The Application: BE ALERT. Where there is Christian witness, there will be antagonism. Don't uproot it; just grow on for God. The end is coming!

THE MUSTARD TREE (*Mt. 13:31-32*)

The Illustration: A man sows a mustard seed in his field. Though only an herb, it eventually grows into a tree in which the birds of the air lodge.

The Explanation: Those who give assent to the King have grown from a small seed into a tree of monstrous proportions. The **work of false teachers** finds protection in it.

The Emphasis: Lodging in Christendom are agents of "the ruler of the darkness of this age." This sensational expansion fits the description of Babylon (Rev. 17-18), the final form of organized religion, which becomes the habitation of demons and false teachers.

The Application: BE HUMBLE. Watch out for sensational growth that, like the mustard, tickles the palate but hides false teachers in its branches.

THE LEAVEN (*Mt. 13:33*)

The Illustration: A woman hides leaven in three measures of meal, until the whole is affected.

The Explanation: Leaven represents the corrupting **work of evil** (Mk. 8:15; Mt. 16:6; 1 Cor. 5:6-8; Gal. 5:9). Introduced into the meal (3 measures = 1 ephah, the meal offering), it has a permeating effect in the whole lump. The woman may be suggesting Satan's imitation of the Bride of Christ.

The Emphasis: The evil scheme of the enemy here seems to be the corrupting of the doctrine of Christ, His person, offices, and work.

The Application: BE HOLY. Wrong doctrine, especially about Christ, always corrupts morals. "Therefore let us keep the feast…with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor. 5:6-8).

THE TREASURE IN THE FIELD (*Mt. 13:44*)

The Illustration: A man finds a treasure buried in a field; he hides it again, sells all that He has, and purchases the field with the treasure in it.

The Explanation: The treasure hidden is Israel (Ex. 19:5), and the field is the world. The **work of Christ for Israel** purchased the field, and awaits the day when He shall come to be recognized by the remnant as Israel's true Messiah.

The Emphasis: The treasure still remains hidden in the field until the "fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Rom. 11:25). Christ will return to claim His treasure. Israel, no longer set aside, will be the head of the nations.

The Application: BE NOT IGNORANT. The Lord is right on schedule. His promises to Abram and David will be fulfilled.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE (*Mt. 13:45-46*)

The Illustration: A merchantman is seeking good pearls. On finding one pearl of great price, he sells all that he has and purchases it.

The Explanation: The Merchantman from heaven, the Lord Jesus, found a pearl (the Church) in the sea (the nations). He sold all that He had in order to purchase it and deliver it from the depths in which it lay.

The Emphasis: We learn of the **work of Christ for the Church.** He went "seeking goodly pearls." He had to descend into the depths (see Phil. 2:6-8) and "sold all that He had" for us (2 Cor. 8:9).

The Application: BE THANKFUL. Although the kingdom was offered to Israel and refused, the Lord graciously turned to Jew and Gentile to fashion for Himself a Bride.

THE DRAGNET (*Mt. 13:47-50*)

The Illustration: A net cast into the sea drew in various species of fish. When it was full, it was drawn to shore where the good fish were saved and the bad cast away.

The Explanation: The "gospel net" is descriptive of the **work of the believers** in "preaching the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). The angels are sent to separate the good from the bad in preparation for the final judgment of God.

The Emphasis: Casting the net in draws the multitude of fish. The Lord said He would draw all men unto Him. All thus drawn are not saved. But in the end, He will do right and be seen to do so.

The Application: BE CONSISTENT. Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

The seven parables of Matthew 13 are divided into two groups. The first four were spoken publicly to the multitude, He "left the house and sat by the seaside." Symbolically the Lord turns from Israel (the house) because they rejected Him, and offers Himself to the nations (the sea). These parables describe how Satan is working to destroy the work of the King in the present age.

The last three parables were given privately to His disciples. The Church has been "built upon the foundation of the apostles…" (Eph. 2:20). These parables show the Lord redeeming His people. They show how the operation of the purpose of God will ultimately triumph.

4. Fishy Fruit Slices as A Call to Become Fishers of Men

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Objectives:

- Children learn about Jesus' Call for workers of God's Kingdom
- Encounter the Call of First Disciples in the sea of Galilee from Luke 5:1-11
- Help young children learn evangelism as the important task of the church

Menu for the day: Fishy Fruit Slices

Text in Context: Luke 5:1-11

Read the scripture or re-tell the story briefly, so that children may learn about Jesus' call of the first disciples

++++++

Cooking Event: Fishy Fruit Slices

Prep Time: 15 minute;

[Ingredients] Original recipe makes 24 servings
- 1 dozen oranges
- 1 lb black berries
- 1 bag of carrots

[Preparation]
1. Slice orange for fishy body as shown in the picture.
2. Cut carrot in pieces for fins.
3. Make small pieces of carrot for mouth
4. Wash blackberry gently with running water and sort in three sizes
5. Place fruit pieces to serve

Serve Fishy Fruit Slices for the worshippers during fellowship hour.

[Making a List of Your Friends to Invite to Church]

One of the greatest gifts for your friends is to offer the gospel of Jesus Christ. You may have friends who do not know Jesus.

Jot down names of your friends who do not come to church on a piece of "Post It" paper and turn it to your teacher. During the summer, we will pray for their well-being and for their coming to faith.

Tips for Joyous and Successful Evangelism Activity

1. List the unchurched family members, friends and co-workers you are willing to bring
2. Pray daily for the blessings of the unchurched
3. Have clear visions why you attend church
4. Listen to the stories of the unchurched and allow them to talk
5. Share your own stories of life change after your coming into faith BRIEFLY
6. Demonstrate ALWAYS joy from your being a part of church family
7. Have a biblical literacy, esp. for "Sermon on the Mount" - Matthew 5-7

sharingfaith

☝ Teacher's Help - **Jesus' Call of The Gifted**

Has God given you many talents? Then he trusts you with many talents. He gives people only what he knows they can handle. Talents are gifts from God. He gives all sorts of gifts. He gives some people lots of money. He makes others good at sports. He gives some people a loving kind spirit. He gives others a sense of humor to make people laugh. These are all talents.

Does God care about your talents? He sure does!

God wants you to use your talents fully. Use your money wisely. Be kind to those around you. Take care of your body. Use all your abilities. Share your smile and your love.

Then God will call you a good and faithful servant. He will give you happiness forever. And he will bless you with still more talents!

Something To Think About

What talents do you have?
How can you use them for God? How can you share them with others?

Something To Do

List your special abilities. Ask God to help you use your talents.

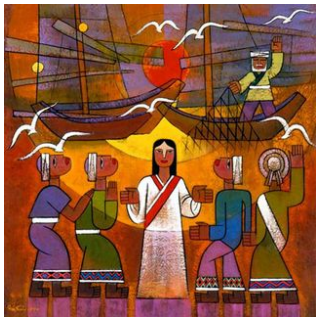
Jesus said: "Come. Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." (Matthew 4:19). Jesus calls you—young disciples. To his call, would you say "yes" to him?

"The Miraculous Draught of Fishes" by Raffaello Sanzio, 1515
Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Further Study

Disciples, Who Are they?

Disciples are apprentices or pupils attached to a teacher or movement; one whose allegiance is to the instruction and commitments of the teacher or movement. Closely paralleling rabbinic custom, most New Testament references to "disciples" disignate "followerer" of Jesus, often a large group including both his cloest associates (the Twelve) and a large number who followed with varing positive response (Luke 6:17). Disciples are not simply Twelve disciples we recognize from the gospels in the New Testament, but ones who would like to learn Jesus' teachings for His Kingdom.



The Twelve and Other Disciples

"The Twelve" is a group chosen by Jesus to accompany him and share his ministry (Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 13-19; Luke 6:13-16; John 6:70' Acts 1:13). The number apparently refers to the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28) and symbolize the restoration of Israel. As witnesses to his minsitry and resurrection, the Twelve authenticate the church's postresurrection proclamation of the tradition about Jesus. (from *Harpercollins Bible Dictionary*)

Gospel writers include many others, like women and children. Apostle Paul list these disciples in his letter to the Corinthians chapter 15.

> 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to **Peter**, and then to **the Twelve**. 6 After that, he appeared to more than **five hundred** of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to **James**, then to **all the apostles**, 8 and last of all he appeared to **me (Paul)** also, as to one abnormally born. **(1 Corinthians 15:3-8)**

Twelve Disciples and Meaning of Their Names

Peter: *A rock or stone* (Sign of Aries, Tribe of Zebulon)
Simon: *That hears; that obeys* (Sign of Taurus, Tribe of Joseph)
James: *Same as 'Jacob' – that supplants, undermines, the heel* (Sign of Gemini, Tribe of Benjamin)
Andrew: *A strong man* (Sign of Cancer, Tribe of Issachar)
John: *The grace or mercy of the LORD* (Sign of Leo, Tribe of Judah)
Philip: *Warlike, a lover of horses* (Sign of Virgo, Tribe of Naphtali)
Bartholomew: *A son that suspends the waters* (Sign of Libra, Tribe of Asher)
Thomas: *A twin* (Sign of Scorpio, Tribe of Dan)
James the Great: *Same as 'Jacob' – that supplants, undermines, the heel* (Sign of Sagittarius, Tribe of Gad)
Matthew: *Given, a reward*, (Sign of Capricorn, Tribe of Simeon)
(Jude) Thaddeus: *That praises or confesses* (Sign of Aquarius, Tribe of Reuben)
Matthias/Judas: T*he gift of the LORD* (Sign of Pisces, Tribe of Levi)

5. Watermelon Lollipop as Good Fruit from Good Tree

Sunday, July 23, 2017

Objectives:

- Children learn about becoming good and faithful children of God through good examples.
- Encounter Jesus' Parable about A Tree and Its Fruit from Luke's Sermon on the Plain in chapter 6.
- Help young children learn about the mind of Christ from His teaching.

Menu for the day: Watermelon Lollipop

Text in Context: Luke 6:43-45

- *Read the scripture and let the students talk about the examples about bearing bad fruits in their behaviors to others.*

++

Luke 6:43-48 43 "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 Each tree is recog-
nized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briers. 45 The good man
brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil
stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. 46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord,
Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 I will show you what he is like who
comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
(Proverbs 15:1)

Cooking Event: Watermelon Lollipop

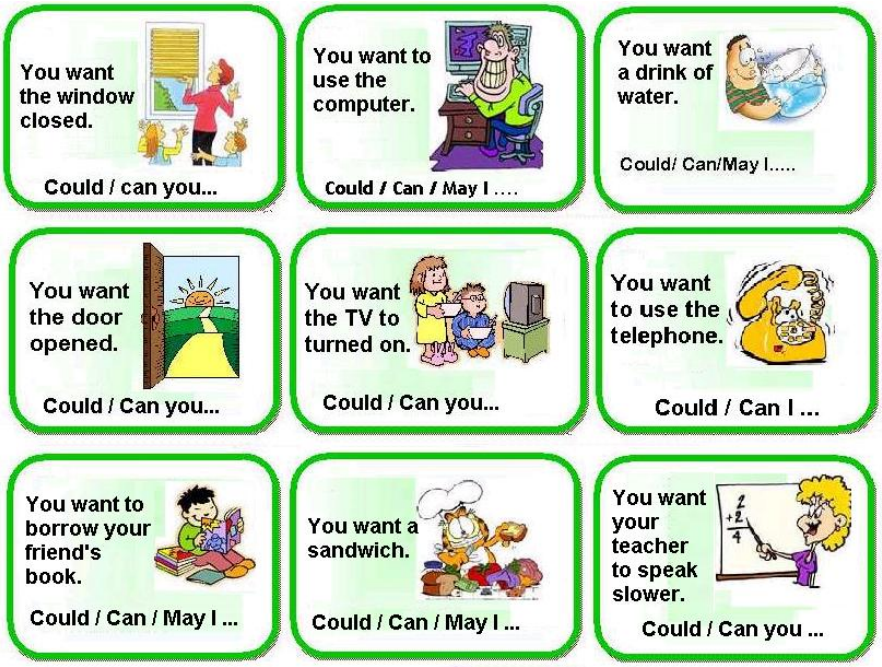
Prep: 5 minutes; ready to serve within 2 minutes

[Ingredients] Original recipe makes 24 servings
- 1 watermelon
- 24 ice cream bar sticks

[Directions]
1. Cut watermelon as shown in the picture. Children need help from adult.
2. With pocket knife make a hole for sticks to put in

[Further Practice for Polite Expressions]

While serving refreshments, form a group of a pair or three with children and an adult let each adult person teach how to use polite expressions in a daily life.



A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin. (Proverbs 26:28)

☝ Teacher's Help - Good Fruit from Good Tree

You can name a tree by its fruit. Look at a tree full of apples. That's an apple tree. Pick an orange. You've picked it from an orange tree.

You can even know a tree's health from its fruit. Does this tree grow many juicy plums? It's a healthy plum tree. Does that tree bear small, dry pears? It's a sick pear tree.

Jesus compares people to trees. He says that good people do good things. Their hearts are full of good fruit. Bad people, Jesus warns, do bad things. Their hearts are full of bad fruit.

Jesus gives you a gentle reminder. Check your fruits.

Jesus also gives you a gently warning. You can know people by their actions and their words. Keep your eyes and ears open. Choose your friends by their fruits. Jesus wants only the best for you.

Some Things To Think About

What are your "fruits"? Why should you check them? Should you check your friends' fruits? Why?

Some Things To Do

Ask Jesus to keep your heart good. Pray for help in picking your friends. Try to name some trees by their fruits.

"You can tell each tree by the kind of tree it bears" (Luke 6:44).

Further Study

Discipline in the Christian Life - "Three Simple Rules"

Jesus invites all who love him and those who would like to live with others in peace to a faithful Christian living. The life is not easy and needs a discipline to maintain the unity of faith and good works through "the means of grace."

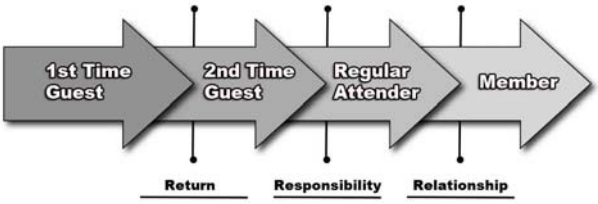
John Wesley insisted that evangelical faith should manifest itself in evangelical living. He spelled out this expectation in the three-part formula of the rules: First, by **doing no harm,** by avoiding evil of every kind...; secondly by **doing good** of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all...; thirdly, by **attending upon all the ordinances of God**, such as: the public worship of God, the ministry of the Word, the Supper of the Lord, family and private prayer, searching the scriptures, fasting or abstinence. These three rules show how the Christian conscience might move from general principles to specific actions.

Other Teachings on Christian Discipline

> "O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (**Micah 6:8)**
>
> "19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." (**1 Corinthians 6:19—20)**
>
> "22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (**Galatians 5:22-23)**

Assimilation Process

> Our church would like its members and friends to grow spiritually through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Assimilation process is an intentional demonstration of "equipping" new disciples to deepen their relationship with Jesus and His work. For the beginner or visitors spiritual leaders may help them go through 1) Awareness Phase, 2) Ownership Phase, and 3) Fruit-bearing Phase of their spiritual growth. Confident as Paul, the spiritual leaders must have strong faith in leading others: "Therefore I urge you to imitate me." (1 Corinthians 4:16)



6. Healthy Brown Bag Popcorn As Bread from Heaven

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Objectives:

- Children learn about Holy Communion as Bread from Heaven, which was provided for the Hebrews in the wilderness
- Encounter Jesus' Feeding Miracles of 5000 from John 6:1-15.
- Help young children learn about Holy Communion as Eucharist, meaning "Meal with Thanksgiving."

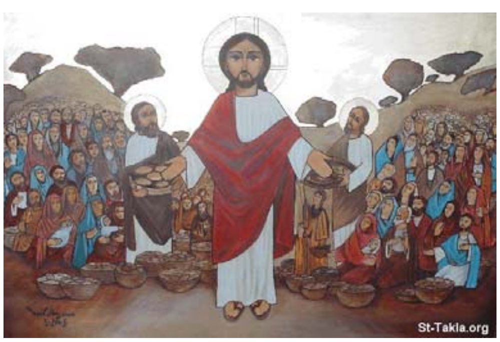
Menu for the day: Healthy Brown Bag Popcorn

Text in Context: John 6:1-15

- *Read or retell the story about manna in the wilderness during the cooking event?*

++

John 6:1-15 NIV **John 6:1** Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is,
the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he
had performed on the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The
Jewish Passover Feast was near. 5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said
to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already
had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread
for each one to have a bite!" 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a
boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" 10 Jesus said,
"Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much
as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. 12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples,
"Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."
13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the
pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had
eaten. 14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is
to come into the world." 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended
to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a
mountain by himself.



Miracle, A contemporary Coptic icon of Jesus feeding the 5000 people
صورة\أيقونة قبطية معاصرة توضح أشباع 5000 شخص، معجزة

Cooking Event: **Healthy Brown Bag Popcorn**

Prep: 5 Minutes; Cook 2 Minutes; Ready in 10 Minutes

[Ingredients]

Original recipe makes 5 servings
- 1/3 cup and 1 tablespoons of butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

[Directions]

1. Add 1/3 cup popcorn kernels to a brown paper bag
2. Fold the bag over twice
3. Then heat in a microwave — folded side down — for 2 minutes.
4. THAT'S IT! Fresh popped popcorn without any fuss, ready for you to flavor as desired or eat completely bare

Serve **Healthy Brown Bag Popcorn** for the worshippers during fellowship hour.

[Prayers on Bread from Heaven]

Pick one of prayers for your own meditation.

Lord, we pray for you to rain down on us the Bread of Heaven, Your spiritual manna, divine good to nourish and sustain us, so that we may eat the angels' food and be filled with Your life. Amen. (see Psalm 78:23-24; Arcana Coelestia 8464)

Lord, You are the Bread of Life. Help me come to You so that I shall never hunger, and help Me believe in You so that I shall never thirst. Teach me to labor not for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to everlasting life, that I may come to dwell in Your house forever. Amen. (see John 6:27,35)

Lord, we know that You will never fail us, and that when You feed Your people there is always more than enough, an abundance and fullness. Help us to feel Your loving presence, to hear Your teachings, and to live as You wish us to so that we may be filled with Your goodness and find our eternal home with You. Amen.

☝ Teacher's Help - **Bread from Heaven**

Jesus did a wonderful thing. He fed more than 5,000 people with a sack lunch. That must have been some picnic.

The grown-ups didn't offer Jesus anything. They were sure they didn't have enough. But one little boy offered what he had to Jesus. All he had was his lunch. His mom probably packed it for him. But when he gave Jesus what he had, Jesus used it in a great way.

"Christ Feeding 5000" by Eric Feather
32"x45"

Jesus can do the same with you. Offer God whatever you have. Do it whenever you see a need. Offer your talents. Offer to share your things. Jesus can make whatever you have go a long way. He can use you to do wonderful things too!

Ask Yourself

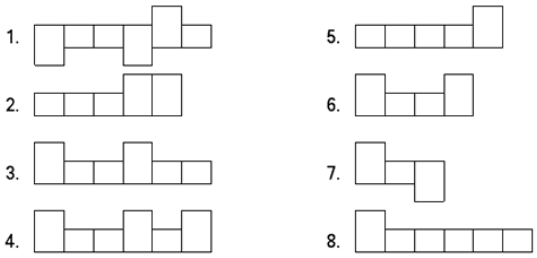
Ask Yourself

What might have happened if the little boy hadn't offered what he had?
What do you have that you can offer to God and His people?

Jesus Feeds the 5000

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. John 6:11 (NIV)

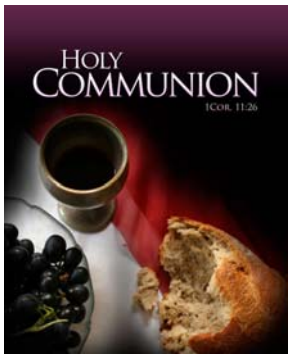
Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



crowd	loaves	boy	basket
people	small	fish	twelve

Further Study

Meaning of Holy Communion: The Lord's Supper



John's Feeding of 5,000 is full of sacramental language:

> *Jesus then **took** the loaves, **gave thanks**, and **distributed** to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.* ***(John 6:11)***

The Lord's Supper is the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples prior to his death. The early Christian celebration receives this name from Paul's reference to "the supper of the Lord" in 1 Corinthians 11:20. The words spoken over bread and cup were a crucial part of the Lord's Supper liturgy from the beginning. The bread and wine are connected with Jesus' redemptive death.

The Lord's Supper has **multiple meaning**. It is also called as Eucharist, meaning Thanksgiving, which is associated with Jesus' prayer of thanksgiving for the meal. The Lord's Supper is a memorial act of Jesus' life and death. But, it does not simply commemorate what Jesus did in his past public ministry. It recollects the promise of His coming in the future, which symbolize the meal as a heavenly banquet. Many Chrisitian believers call the meal as Holy Communion - a liturgical celebration of the Saints here on earth and over there in heaven. The Lord's Supper is opened to everyone, including children and non-baptized peple in our Methodist tradition as a table set by the grace of God, because we believe that God's grace works beyond human understanding (known as "Prevenient Grace").

The Lord's Supper is also known as "breaking of the bread for the gathering of faithful disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world." Prior to reception of the elements—bread and wine, the participants are expected for an act of repentance. Celebrated throughout the ages for a spiritual reminder, it serves for eschatological reminder of God's blessing.

Many churches don't offer The Lord's Supper. There is no restriction for frequency. It can be offered at every worship service. Often the Lord's Supper is associated with several other liturgical services, such as Seasonal services at Holy Week, Easter and Christimas and at Wedding and Funeral.

"You preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."
Psalm 23:5

7. Vanilla Ice Cream as Sins Forgiveness as White as Snow

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Objectives:

- Children learn about God's desire to forgive the sins of the Israelites in the days of the Prophet Isaiah.
- Encounter the prophetic message about the forgiveness of sin from Isaiah 1.
- Help young children learn lessons about need for an act of repentance during their cooking event.

Menu for the day: Vanilla Ice Cream

Text in Context: Isaiah 1:1-18

- *Read the scripture and let the students talk about what kind of people God would like to have?*

++

Isaiah 1:1-18 The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of
Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. 2 Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spo-
ken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. 3 The ox knows his master,
the donkey his owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." 4 Ah, sinful nation, a
people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they
have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him. 5 Why should you be beaten anymore? Why
do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. 6 From the sole of your
foot to the top of your head there is no soundness-- only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or
bandaged or soothed with oil. 7 Your country is desolate, your cities burned with fire; your fields are being
stripped by foreigners right before you, laid waste as when overthrown by strangers. 8 The Daughter of Zion
is left like a shelter in a vineyard, like a hut in a field of melons, like a city under siege. 9 Unless the LORD Al-
mighty had left us some survivors, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah. 10
Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah! 11 "The
multitude of your sacrifices-- what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough of burnt offer-
ings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. 12
When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? 13 Stop bringing
meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations-- I cannot
bear your evil assemblies. 14 Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have
become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide
my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; 16 wash and
make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, 17 learn to do right! Seek jus-
tice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. 18 "Come now,
let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Cooking Event: Vanilla Ice Cream

*Prep Time: 5 minute; Cook Time: at least 3 Hours**

[Ingredients] Original recipe makes 24 servings
- 6 cups heavy whipping cream
- 6 cups half-and-half cream
- 2-1/4 cups white sugar
- 3 tablespoons vanilla extract

[Directions]

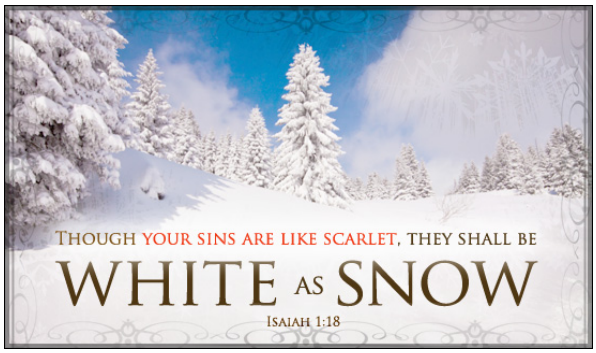
1. In a large bowl, combine the heavy cream and the half and half. Gradually whisk in the sugar until blended.
2. Whisk in the vanilla. Refrigerate, covered, until very cold, at least 3 hours or as long as 3 days.
3. Whisk the mixture to blend and pour into the canister of an ice cream maker. Freeze according to the manufacturer's directions. Eat at once or transfer to a covered container and freeze up to 8 hours.

**Due to cooking hour, the students may use Ice Cream from the store.*

Serve Vanilla Ice Cream for the worshippers during fellowship hour.

[Prayer of Repentance]

Have mercy on me, God, in your goodness in your abundant compassion blot out my offense.
Wash away all my guilt; from my sin cleanse me.
For I know my offense; my sin is always before me.
Against you alone have I sinned; I have done such evil in your sight that you are just in your sentence,
blameless when you condemn.
True, I was born guilty, a sinner, even as my mother conceived me.
Still, you insist on sincerity of heart; in my inmost being teach me wisdom.
Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure; wash me, make me whiter than snow.
Let me hear sounds of joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Turn away your face from my sins; blot out all my guilt.. (From Psalm 51)



☝ **Teacher's Help -** **Act of Repentance**

Sorry … For What?

Have you ever done something bad that you didn't mean to do? Maybe you ruined someone's homework. Maybe you slammed the door on their hand. And maybe you thought it was their fault anyway. You may have said, "They should have put their paper away." Or you may have thought, they should have moved their hand. You don't need to say you're sorry … right? WRONG!

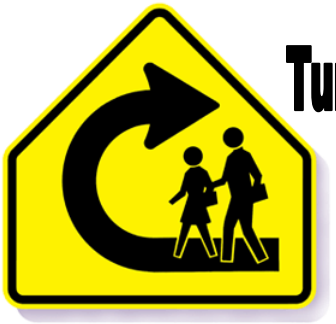
You need to say you're sorry any time you hurt someone. It doesn't matter if you wanted to hurt them or not. When you say you are sorry, you show them that you care.

When you do something wrong. God will forgive you if you ask. That doesn't mean God will not punish you. God loves you. He wants you to obey. God tells adults to act like he does. When you break your parents' or guardians' rules, they will punish you. You may think they are mean when they punish you. That's not true. They love you. But it's their job to teach you right from wrong. They want to help you become a better person.

Ask Yourself

Do you say you are sorry whenever you hurt someone?
How do you feel when someone says they are sorry for hurting you?

God through the prophet Isaiah wants us to learn to do what is right—treating people fairly; giving hope to those who are beaten down, cheering them up. God also will forgive those who repent their wrong behaviors. When repenting, even though their sins are red as crimson they will be white as wool. It means God's forgiveness of sins.



Turn around toward God and Godly Acts…

Further Study

Forgiveness of Sins

Forgiveness means "send away," "cover," "remove," and "wipe away." In the New Testament "send away" is used most often; forgivenss is also communicated by words which mean "loose" (Luke 6:37), "be gracious to" (Luke 7:43; 2 Corinthians 2:7), and "pass over (Romans 3:25).

Forgivenss of sins is an important act in reconciling with one another. It leads people to restore a broken relationship with God and with one another. It brings people to the joy of salvation.

Forgiveness is a gift from the merciful and loving. God's forgiveness is variously described as justification, salvation, and reconciliation. It is associated with the celebration of the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:28) and in some passages Jesus himself forgives sins (Mark 2:5-6; Acts 5:31). Members of the Christian community also have a role in the forgiveness of each other's sin (John 20:23; James 5:13-16).

Forgiveness is an act of love. It is of God; God is love. **Apostle Paul** explains the power of love for the forgiveness of sins from his first letter to Corinthians.

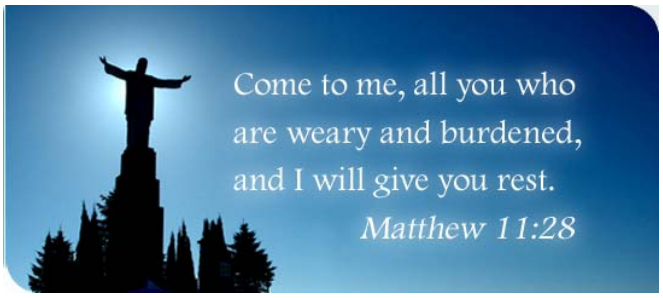
> 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7)**

Peter, one of the Twelve emphasizes the importance of love for the salvation.

> 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. (**1 Peter 4:8)**

The greatest love is shown by **Jesus** at His crucifixion. He laid down his life for the forgiveness of sins of the world, reconciling it with God. He even forgave the ones who crucified him.

> 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (**Luke 23:34)**



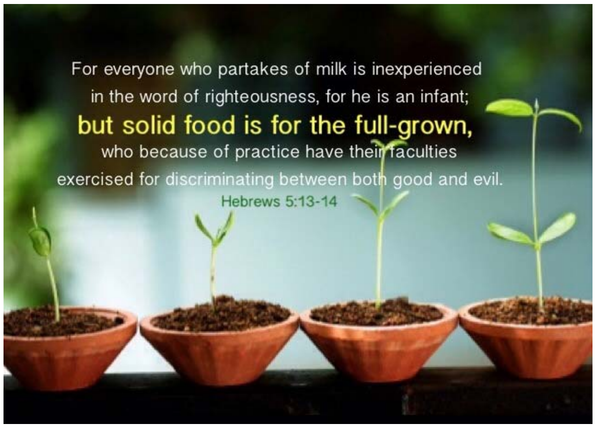
8. Milk, Spiritual Food or the Immature of Faith
Sunday, August 13, 2017

Objectives:
- Children learn about the stages of faith
- Encounter the New Testament lesson on Spiritual maturity from Hebrews 5:7-6:3.
- Help young children learn about holding accountable for one another in faith.

Menu for the day: Milk

Text in Context: Hebrews 5:7-6:3

- *Read the scripture concerning mutual accountability for the act of faith.*



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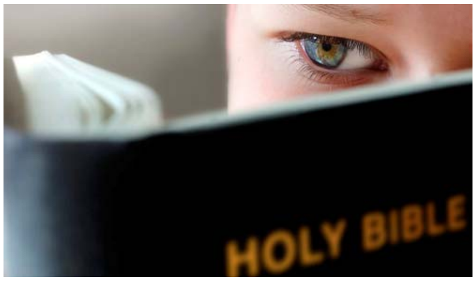
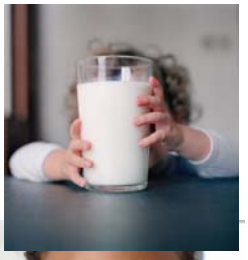
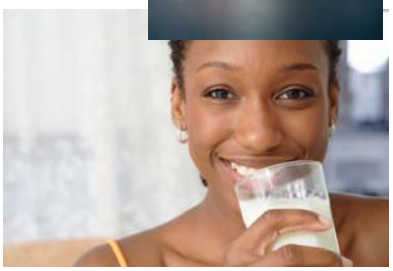
Hebrews 5:7 - 6:3 7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and
tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Although he
was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal
salvation for all who obey him 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. 11 We have
much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought
to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not
solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14
But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction
about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead,
and eternal judgment.



Cooking Event: Serving a glass of Milk

Prep 1 minute; Ready in 1 Minute





[Ingredients]

- 1 Gal of 2% milk
- 1 Gal of chocolate milk

[Preparation]

- Buy fresh milk and keep it cool in refrigerator before serving.

Serve a glass of milk for the worshippers during fellowship hour.

Fat Free Milk

Nutrition Facts	Amount/Serving	% DV*	Amount/Serving	% DV*
Serv. Size 1 Cup (240mL)	**Total Fat** 0g	**0%**	**Potassium** 410mg	**12%**
Servings Per Container 16	Sat. Fat 0g	**0%**	**Total Carb.** 13g	**4%**
Calories 90	Trans Fat 0g		Dietary Fiber 0g	**0%**
Fat Cal. 0	**Cholest.** 5mg	**1%**	Sugars 12g	
	Sodium 130mg	**5%**	**Protein** 8g	
*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.	Vitamin A 10% • Vitamin C 4% • Calcium 30% Iron 0% • Vitamin D 25%			

1% Milk

Nutrition Facts	Amount/Serving	% DV*	Amount/Serving	% DV*
Serv. Size 1 Cup (240mL)	**Total Fat** 5g	**8%**	**Potassium** 400mg	**11%**
Servings Per Container 16	Sat. Fat 3g	**15%**	**Total Carb.** 12g	**4%**
Calories 130	Trans Fat 0g		Dietary Fiber 0g	**0%**
Fat Cal. 45	**Cholest.** 20mg	**7%**	Sugars 12g	
	Sodium 130mg	**5%**	**Protein** 8g	
*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.	Vitamin A 10% • Vitamin C 4% • Calcium 30% Iron 0% • Vitamin D 25%			

Drinking Milk

Cow's milk is naturally an excellent source of calcium. It has vitamin D and it has potassium and it's a complete protein source as well. With other forms of dairy – cheese, yogurt and other sources – you are getting some, but not all, of the nutrients from milk. For example, in yogurt the water in milk is taken away so you get possibly more protein per serving. But you may also get more fat and salt. Yogurt would be a good option to replace cow's milk if you'd like, especially a non-fat greek yogurt which is lower in carbs and higher in protein.

Soy milk is the best substitute out there when it comes to milk substitutes: Almond milk, rice milk, or hemp milk. ... They are very low in protein.

From "http://www.livescience.com/36512-experts-explain-milk-health-benefits-risks.html"

☝ Teacher's Help - **"Milk for Infant Stage of Faith"**

Do you want to grow up? Then eat the right food!

When you were a very small baby, you drank only milk. When you grew teeth, you began to eat crackers and baby food. And now that you are big, you can eat almost anything!

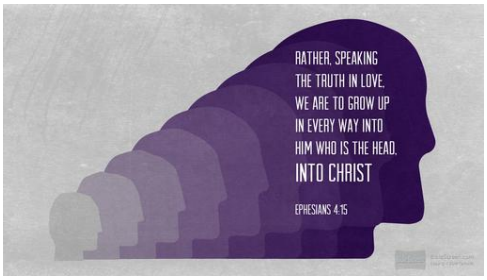
Some Christians are baby Christians. They are just starting to learn about Jesus and the Bible. They "drink milk."

Other Christians are more grown up. They know a lot about Jesus. They practice obeying him. So they "eat solid food."

If you are a baby Christian, learn everything you can about Jesus. Practice doing what is right. And you will grow up to be a big, strong Christian!

Ask Yourself

What is a baby Christian?
How can you grow up to be a strong Christian?



14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by
the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teach-
ing and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful
scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all
things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.
(**Ephesians 4:14-15)**

Overcoming "Almost Christian"

The Almost Christian (1741) was a sermon title of John Wesley. Almost Christian is one who was taught that he or she ought not to be unjust… has the form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. a nominal Christian. Altogether Christian however is one who has the faith that worked by love—love of God and love of neighbor.

Listen to YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0li4wkzdhI

Further Study

Growing Into Maturity: Sanctification and Christian Perfection
(Our Doctrinal Standard - Article XI)

We believe sanctification is the work of God's grace through the Word and the Spirit, by which those who have been born again are cleaned from sin in their thoughts, words and acts, and are enabled to live in accordance with God's will, and to stive for holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

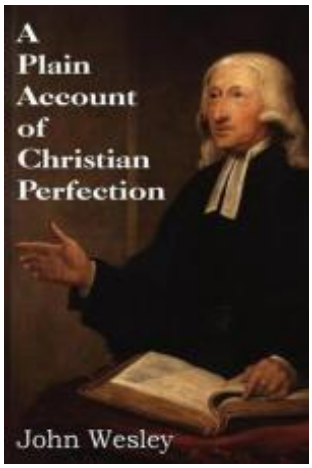
Entire sanctification is a state of perfect love, righteousness and true holiness which every regenerate believer may obtain by beling delivered from the power of sin, by loving God with all the heart, soul, mind and strength, and by loving one's neighbor as one's self. Through faith in Jesus Christ this gracious gift may be received in this life both gradually and instantaneously, and should be sought earnestly by every child of God.

We believe this experience does not deliver us from the infirmities, ignorance, and mistakes comon to man, nor from the possibilities of further sin. The Christian must continue on goard against spiritual pride and seek to gain victory over every temptation to sin. He must respond wholly to the will of God so that sin will lose its power over him; and the world, the flesh, and the devil are put under his feet. Thus he rules over these enemies with watchfulness through the power of the Holy Spirit. (From *2012 Book of Discipline*, p. 73)

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. **(Matthew 5:48)**

Salvation as the total restoration of the deformed image of God in us and its fullness as the recovery of our negative power not to sin and our positive power to love God supremely!

From "Christian Perfection" (1741)
Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect.
Philippians 3:12



9. Fresh Grapes Cracker as Our Relationship with Jesus

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Objectives:

- Children learn about what kind of relationship Jesus would like to have with his followers.
- Encounter the gospel lesson on Christian living from John 15.
- Help young children learn about true relationship between Jesus and the Church, the faithful disciples during their cooking event.

Menu for the day: Fresh Grape Crackers

Text in Context: John 15:1-10

- *Read the scripture and let the students talk about the meaning of relationship as vine and branches.*

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John 15:1-10 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. [2] He cuts off every branch in me that
bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. [3] You
are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. [4] Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No
branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.
[5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart
from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and
withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. [7] If you remain in me and my words
remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. [8] This is to my Father's glory, that you bear
much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. [9] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now
remain in my love. [10] If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's
commands and remain in his love.

Cooking Event: Fresh Grapes Crackers

Prep Time: 5 minute; Cook Time: 1 minute; Ready in 10 minutes

[Ingredients] Original recipe makes 18 servings
- 2 pounds green seedless grapes
- **9 store-bought graham crackers, split in half, or 18**
- 1 can of whipping cream

[Directions]
1. Wash gently green seedless grapes with running water
2. Cut grapes in two
3. Place whipping cream on graham cracker
4. Place 7-9 cut grapes on whipping cream and serve

Serve a dish of grapes for the worshippers during fellowship hour.

Power of Small Group

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. [2] These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; [3] Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; [4] Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. [5] These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. [6] Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. [7] As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' [8] Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. (**Matthew 10:1-8)**

Faithful Connection for Mission Outreach

When Jesus commissioned his disciples in pairs, each pair accomplished a great job. What a strategy! Our church would like each person to make friends in Christ—"Companions in Christ." Working together we can make a difference with excellence. You are invited to be a part of "Small Group" ministry. We have several small groups for the act of worship, of discipleship, of fellowship and of partinership in mission and outreach. Join and get connected with other faithful friends in Christ.

> "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (**Ecclesiastes 4:12)**

Join small group activities for worship, study, service and faith sharing: Liturgical Leaders, Sunday School Teachers, Disciple, Jesus in the Gospels, Outreach Coordinators, Evangelism, Coffee with Pastor etc.

☝ Teacher's Help - **"Bearing Fruits"**

A branch is connected to a vine. You can't see all those connections. They're hidden inside the plant. Inside the branch are tiny tubes. They tie the branch to the vine. Everything the branch needs flows through these tubes and keeps the branch alive.

Jesus is like a vine. You are like a branch. You can't see or touch the connections between you. But you can feel them deep within yourself.

Love and care connect you to Jesus. He sends you blessings every day. He comforts you with his presence. He leads you with his teachings in the Bible.

Jesus wants you to stay close to him. He wants you to keep the connections open and strong. Then he will bless you freely. His love will flow in you. Your soul will grow strong.

Some Things To Think About

How can you keep your connections to Jesus open?
Can any person help you do that? Does Jesus help?

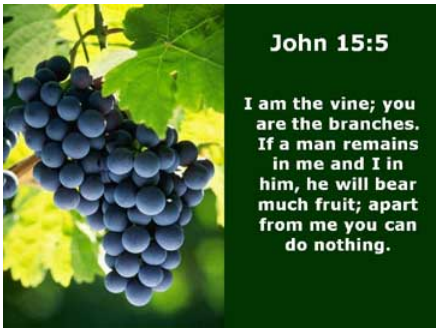
Some Things To Do

Ask Jesus to keep you close to him. Pray for people who are not close to Jesus. Gently remove one branch from a plant. Look at the tiny tubes inside of it.

2 Ways to Bear Fruits:
"Bringing" & "Bearing"

Further Study

Wine and Vine (From "Vine," Harpercollins Bible Dictionary, pp. 1192-93)



Wine is generally viewed as a blessing (Genesis 27:28; Deuteronomy 7:13) that "gladdens the heart" (Psalm 104:15) suppresses pain, and banishes misery in forgetfulness (1 Timothy 5:23; Proverbs 31:6). Its absence on special occasions such as weddings was a misfortune, and on one occasion Jesus remedied such a lack by maraculous means (John 2:1-10). Wine was offered to God in Israelite worship (Leviticus 23:13; Numbers 28:14) and was employed medicinally to adminster drugs (Matthew 27:34), to treat wounds (Luke 10:34), and to cure digestive ailments (1 Timothy 5:23). **The vine** was a rich source of symbolism in ancient Near Eastern literature, ritual and art. The twining branch signified life and the grape cluster, or vineyard, fertility (Song of Solomon 7:12). Raisins pressed into cakes were used in the cult of the goddess of love (Hosea 3:1). Wine was the "blood of the grape (Genesis 49:11; Deuternomy 32:14), an image recalled in Jesus' words over the cup of the Last Supper (Matthew 26:28). God's judgment of the wicked is like the treading of a winepress (Isaiah 63:1-3; Revelation 14:18-20).

Israel accepted the vine and its fruit as gifts of the Lord, not the land (Hosea 2:8-9, 15). Israel itself was likened to a vine, planted and tended by God (Jeremiah 2:21; Psalm 80:8-9). The New Testament applies the image to Jesus and the church: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me... bear much fruit" (John 15:5).

God, as Gardner, Jesus as True Vine, Disciples as Branches

Jesus is the true Israel, in whose stem are incorporated the branches of the people of God, who find their fulfillment and life in him. This lesson is associated with "I Am" saying - a biblical expression of Divine revelation. When Jesus speaks of himself as the vine, his words are not only self-revelatory, but are revelatory of the interrelationship of God, Jesus, and the community in the life of faith as well. All three elements—gardener, vine and branches—are essential to the production of fruit. God is the source and guiding hand that governs Jesus and his work (John 4:36-37; 10:28-30).

Church, The Branches of Christ

(from "John 15:1-17" *New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, pp. 754-760)

In a vine, branches are completely indistinguishable from one another. It is impossible to determine where one branch stops and another branch starts. All run together as they grow out of the central vine. To live according to this model, the church would be a community in which members are known for the acts of love that they do in common with all other members. It would be a community built around the corporate accountability to the abiding presence of Jesus and corporate enactment of the love of God and Jesus.

Mosaic of Jesus the Vine.
San Clemente Station Church, Rome. c.a. 1100 A.D

10. *Fruit Ant Snack* as Wise Stewards

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Objectives:

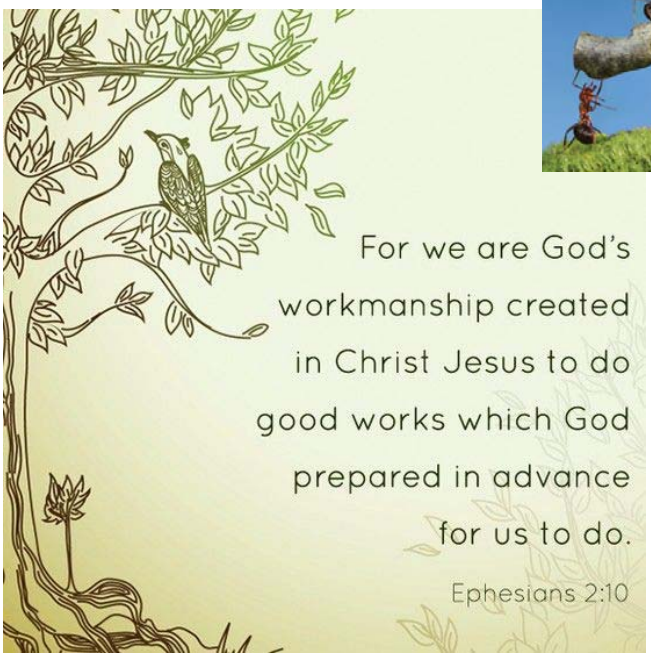
- Children learn about Christian life, diligent for the spread of the gospel
- Encounter the biblical teaching on Christian work ethics from Proverbs 6:6:11
- Help young children learn about faithful Christian lifestyle at work during their cooking event.

Menu for the day: ***Fruit Ant Snack***

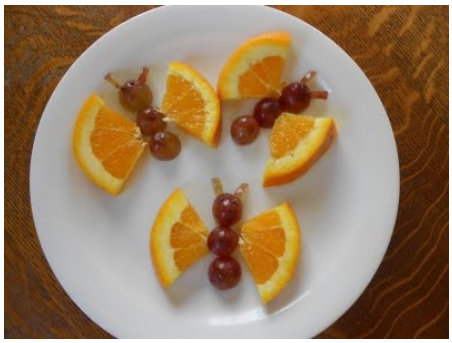
Text in Context: Proverbs 6:6-11

- *Read the scripture and let the students talk about what kind of fruit from the tree had God forbidden to eat?*

Proverbs 6:6-11 6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- 11 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.



Cooking Event: **Fruit Ant Snack**
Prep 15 minutes; Ready within 3 Minutes



[Ingredients]
Original recipe makes 60 servings
- 1 dozen of oranges
- 2 lbs of seedless grapes

[Directions]
Slices oranges in pieces as shown in the image. Cut seedless grapes in two. Decorate oranges and grapes on a paper plate.

Serve **Fruit Ant Snack** for the worshippers during fellowship hour.

Friday thru Monday with Parade!

Prayer for Labor Day
By Reinhold Niebuhr

O God, you have bound us together in this life.
Give us grace to understand how our lives depend on the courage, the industry, the honesty, and the integrity of all who labor.
May we be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness, and faithful in our responsibilities to them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

☝ **Teacher's Help - "Wise Young Disciples"**

Professor Ant

Do you have a hard time getting out of bed? Does your mother have to tell you a hundred times to clean your room? Do you think homework should be against the law? Then you've been beaten by an ant!

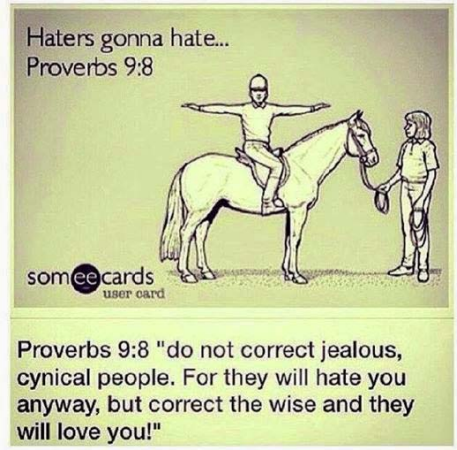
Just look at that little black bug. Ants don't have an alarm clock to wake them up. No one tells them to get to work. They just do it. They know they need food to eat. They know winter is coming. And so they work hard to take care of themselves.

Are you learning to work hard? Are you learning to take care of yourself? If not, you'd better take lessons from Professor Ant!

Ask Yourself

What can the ant teach you? Why do you need to work?

[4] Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5] Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. [6] These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. [7] Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **Deuteronomy 6:4-7**



Further Study

Wisdom Literature

(From "Wisdom Literature" *Harpercollins Bible Dictionary*, pp. 1214-1215)
In the Old Testament, "wisdom literature" is generally understood to refer to Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes. An outstanding trait of biblical wisdom is the personification of Lady Wisdom in Proverbs 1; 3; and 9. She is described as orginating from God and is associated with creation (Proverbs 3:19; 8:22-31). Among the biblical scholars, like G. von Rad it is understood as "the self-revelation of creation" and one might add, the revelation of God in and through creation (Psalm 19:1). This understanding gave birth to "Wisdom theology," which is a theological insight on creation and human experience that the Hebrew sages operated.

Jesus is presented in the Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) as a wisdom teacher, a rabbi. The wisdom of Jesus is "greater than Solomon" (Luke 11;31; Mark 6:2). In Matthew 11:2-19 and Luke 7:18-35 Jesus is implicitly designated as wisdom. What appears as a threat by wisdom in Luke 11:49-51 is a means for Matthew to identify Jesus as wisdom (Matthew 23:34-36). Like wisdom in Proverbs 8, Jesus issues an invitation to all to follow him and take up his yoke (Matthew 11:28-30).

Wisdom Quoats from the Book of Proverbs

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. 3:9-10

There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him; haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. 6:16-19

A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother. 10:1

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. 12:30

A fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them. 14:3

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. 15:1

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. 17:22

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death. 19:18

He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich. 21:17

An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips. 24:26

Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give. 25:14

Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger. 29:8

A wife of noble character: her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. 31:28

Upcoming Sunday School Program:

Sunday, September 10, 2017

The United Methodist Church of Savage
9050 Baltimore Street, Savage, MD 20763
Tel: (301) 725-7630

Lanham United Methodist Church
5512 Whitfield Chapel Road, Lanham, MD 20706
Tel: (301) 577-1500