

Title: Jesus Loves the Little Children

A series of Children's sermons adapted from a children's sermon by missionary Sharon Curry. (3-13-13)

Children's Sermon #1 Jesus Loves the Little Children

Theme: Jesus loves all the children of the world

Scripture: Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Supplies Needed:

- Photo of Sudanese boy fishing – poster from Presbytery office or electronic from wlgwin@att.net
- Photo of Sudanese boys drawing – poster from Presbytery office or electronic from wlgwin@att.net

Sermon: Can you sing the song? Jesus Loves the little children, all the children of the world; near and far, dark and light, they are precious in his sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world.

That is the job of Sharon Curry, our missionary in Akobo, South Sudan. She tells the children, and the adults, that Jesus loves them.

Let me tell you about some of her friends? Jesus loves them just like you, even though they live very different lives from you. One day, she took her notebook and pencils to the river so she could draw pictures. It didn't take long before the children began to come up the river bank to see what she was doing. One was a little boy ten or eleven years old. He had a stick and a string with a hook on it. He was fishing for dinner. He watched for a few minutes and then went back to fishing. If he didn't catch a fish, his family wouldn't eat dinner. Here's his picture. (Show photo of boy fishing) Jesus loves them and he provided fish in the river and a stick, a string and a hook for him to fish with.

Some of the children were afraid. They had never seen pencils before. You see, they don't get to go to school. To them, a stick with a sharp point is dangerous. It is a fighting stick. For some of them, fighting sticks took away their friends and family and they had to leave their homes to flee the fighting because their villages are at war. The soldiers or the attackers come in the night and chase them away. Jesus loves them. He saved them and gave them a new place to live.

Our missionary was able to show the children that pencils are not dangerous and a few of the children even tried to draw. One or two of the older boys, maybe 8-10 years old, go to school when there is enough money to pay for it, and they could write their names. They taught the younger ones to not be afraid. Here's a photo of the children drawing. (Show photo of boys drawing) Jesus loves them enough to help take away their fear of the unknown and stands beside them when they try new things.

Prayer: Let us pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving all the children of the world and thank you for sending our missionary to the children of South Sudan. Amen.



Children's Sermon # 2 Jesus Loves the Little Children

Theme: We can help the children by providing seeds and prayer.

Scripture: Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Supplies Needed:

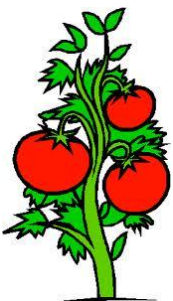
- Photo of Sudanese children with seed bottles – poster from Presbytery office or electronic from wlgwin@att.net.
- A water bottle for each child to take home. (empty is fine) Print the example below or color a piece of paper (that covers the bottle) that says: “ Dear Jesus, we pray for good food for the children of South Sudan so they may grow strong and healthy.” Cover the bottles and tape or glue on the new labels.
- Or you can give each child a packet of seeds with the prayer taped to the back as a reminder to pray.

Sermon: Most of the children in South Sudan, where our missionary Sharon Curry lives, do not have enough food to eat. They don't live in town like many of you, they live in the countryside. Their mothers can't go to a grocery store and fix big meals like yours because there aren't any grocery stores. Even if there were. there is no money to buy food. They have to grow their own food.

This year the rains came and caused big floods that washed all their crops away so there is no food to eat. Jesus loves them enough that He inspired women from the United States to give vegetable seeds so the Sudanese can grow more food. They planted the seeds in bottles so the goats can't eat the seeds and the flood water can't wash them away. And if warriors chase them away from their village they can take their plants with them. The seeds will have a chance to grow and the children will have food. Here is a picture of the children and their seed bottles. (show the photo of the children and seed bottles)

(Show the children one of the assembled water bottles.) The label on this bottle is a special prayer. It says, “ Dear Jesus, we pray for good food for the children of South Sudan so they may grow strong and healthy.” I've brought a bottle for each of you to take home. It can be a reminder each day to pray a little prayer for the children of Sudan and their bottle gardens. Sometime during each day - maybe at mealtime, or bedtime, or when you first wake up- pick up your bottle and hold it a moment. You can say the prayer written on it, or make up your own prayer asking Jesus to bless the children of South Sudan with food. (Give each child a bottle to take home)

Prayer: Pray with me: Dear Jesus, we pray for good food for the children of South Sudan so they may grow strong and healthy. Amen.



Dear Jesus,
We pray for good food for the children of South Sudan so they may grow strong and healthy. Amen

Children’s Sermon #3 Jesus Loves the Little Children

Theme: Jesus protects the children and provides work for them.

Scripture: Matthew 18:14 So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Supplies Needed:

- Photo of the cattle camp – poster from Presbytery office or electronic from wlgwin@att.net
- Photo of the girl in the river – poster from Presbytery office or electronic from wlgwin@att.net

Sermon: Our missionary, Sharon Curry, lives in a village along a river in South Sudan. Some of her friends live across the river, or as she says, “they will be her friends when they get to know each other.” Do you know someone who is between 8 and 20 years old? That is how old most of the boys are, some younger, some older. They usually live all by themselves on the other side of the river with the cattle. They visit their families from time to time. They travel up and down the river and off into the bush where they follow the cattle and make sure the cattle have enough to eat.

The boys live together in small groups. They cook their own food and wash their own clothes in the river. That is where they take their baths too and they sleep on the hard ground with nothing more than a sheet to lie on, if they are lucky. If not, they just sleep on the ground. They don’t go to school. They just watch and protect the cattle. Here is a picture of the cattle camp. (Show the photo of the cattle camp) Jesus loves them enough to protect them too; while they are working and while they are sleeping.

A girl’s life isn’t easy either. Girls haul water in big jugs they carry on their heads, they haul the dishes to the river where they stand in the water and wash them. When they are finished, they jump in and take a bath and wash their clothes. They pound the grain with big rocks and big sticks to make the food they will eat and they take the boat across the river to work in the field that will provide the grain. Here is a photo of a girl in the river. (Show the photo of the girl in the river) Jesus loves them enough to provide work for them to do, and the ability to do it.

Prayer: Let us pray: Jesus, thank you for loving the boys who watch the cattle and the girls who carry the water in Sudan. Help our missionary, Sharon Curry, to teach them all to love one another and to learn to live in peace. Amen.



Children's Sermon #4 Jesus Loves the Little Children

Theme: The job of a missionary is to share the love of Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 11:28 ... I will give you rest.

Supplies Needed:

- Photo of Sudanese house – poster from Presbytery office or electronic from wlgwin@att.net
- A 3- legged stool- available at the Presbytery office Resource Center

Sermon: For the last three weeks we have been learning about the work of Sharon Curry, our missionary in South Sudan. Some of her new friends sleep on the ground in the cattle camps, some of them sleep outside under a special net that keeps mosquitoes away, some sleep in houses made from grass, and some in houses made from sticks and mud with plastic for a roof. Here is a photo of a house in Sudan. (Show photo of house) But Jesus loves them enough to provide rest when they are tired.

Have you ever seen a three legged stool? I brought one to show you.

Sharon Curry, our missionary uses a 3-legged stool to help us understand her job. She says the seat is like Jesus who gives us rest. We can sit and rest on the stool. There are three equally important legs. When you children pray for the children of Sudan you are like one leg. Sharon Curry, our missionary is like another leg. She shares the stories of the children with us, and tells the Sudanese children that you are praying for them. The Sudanese children are the third leg of the stool. We are all connected by Jesus and his love for us that holds us together and makes us all strong.

(Point to each leg) The children of Sudan, our missionary, and each of you. All 3 connected by the love of Jesus (point to the seat).

A missionary's job is to tell how Jesus loves *all* the little children of the world. You are *all* precious in HIS sight.

Prayer: Let us pray: Dear Jesus, Thank you for telling us about other children who can't go to school or don't have enough to eat. Thank you for telling us about children who don't have a house and sleep on the ground. Thank you for Sharon Curry our missionary who lives in South Sudan and tells the children about Jesus's love. Thank you for telling us so we can be part of the 3-legged stool. We can pray for the children of Sudan and tell our friends about them too. Thank you for loving ALL your little children. Amen.

