



Chapel Talk: **Sharing the Love of Jesus** “Naaman and the Slave Girl”

Text: II Kings 5:1-15a

Prop: Bottle of Medicine

Show a bottle of medicine.

Ask: “What is this? How does it work?” *Accept answers.* Medicine is a wonderful gift from God. If you are sick, you can take it and get better. What if you know of a medicine that could cure someone of a terrible sickness? Would you keep it a secret or tell others so they could be healed?

In our Bible reading, Naaman, a commander in the king’s army had leprosy, a horrible skin disease. His servant girl knew how her master could be healed. The girl was captured during a battle. She was taken from her parents who worshiped the true God. The girl did not forget what she had learned from her parents about God. She urged her master go to see the prophet in Samaria named Elisha. The master saw the girl’s faith. He believed that the prophet could heal him. He went to Israel to the king and then to Elisha.

Elisha wanted Naaman to know that it was God who can cleanse and make whole. He directed Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River. At first, Naaman refused to enter the river and bathe. Then the other servants

encouraged him to trust the prophet's words. Naaman obeyed and was healed. He trusted in the true God who had made him well. He said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel."

Even though Naaman was not from Israel, He trusted God and became part of God's people. Through our baptism, we also have become part of God's people, members of His family. God desires that all people come to faith. He wants us to share His love with others as the girl did in the story. If the girl had not told her master to visit the prophet, he would not have been cured. Instead, his skin **was** healed and he **became a believer** in the true God.

Through your gifts and prayers, you can help others learn of the true God. The money you give will help children go to school to learn that Jesus died on the cross for their sins and rose again for them. Some of them come from families who worship idols as Naaman did. Many of them are learning of Jesus' love and forgiveness and are baptized, becoming children of God. Even though you are young, God hears your prayers. He will bless the children and the teachers. He will give them something better than medicine. He will give them eternal life.



Chapel Talk: With Children around the World

“The Healing of the Canaanite Woman’s Daughter”

Text: Matthew 15: 21-28

Prop: Piece of bread

Show the bread.

Say: Who is hungry? Who would like to eat some of this bread? In our Bible reading, Jesus talks about some special bread. Jesus had traveled about 30 miles from the Sea of Galilee. Even though he was trying to keep his visit a secret, a woman heard about Him and knew that she must see Him. She called to Him saying, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession!”

When Jesus didn’t answer, the disciples got annoyed. They said to Him, “Send her away.”

Jesus told her that He was sent for the lost sheep of Israel, the Jewish people. The woman did not give up. “Lord, help me,” she said.

Jesus said, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.” He meant that He was the Savior promised to God’s people, the Jews. It looked like Jesus was calling her and her daughter ‘dogs.’

The woman was not offended. She recognized that Jesus was not calling her a wild mean dog, but a dog like the little puppies that are pets in the home. She replied, “Yes, Lord, for even the little puppies eat the crumbs that fall from the master’s table.”

Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. Your request has been granted." He healed her daughter that very hour.

This Bible reading has good news for everyone here. We are like the woman and the little girl, puppies under the table. Very few of us can trace our family tree back to Abraham, to whom the Savior was promised. But, Jesus welcomes us, and through our baptism makes us more than little puppies. He makes us brothers and sisters, allowing us to call God our Father.

In Jesus' day, women and children were not seen as important. We see here that Jesus healed a little girl! He wanted to release her from the evil spirit so that she could love and serve Him. What joy it gave Him to answer her mother's request.

It gives Jesus great joy when we also bring requests to Him so that other children can learn of His love. Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life. He is the Bread that feeds and nourishes us so that our faith may grow. He wants us to share that bread with others. You are doing that through your prayers and offerings. Because of you, many children will learn that Jesus loves them and has died on the cross to forgive them of their sins. They will learn that He rose again from the dead for them and that they are now children of God.



Chapel talk: **Through Education** “The Boy Jesus in the Temple”

Text: Luke 2:41-52

Prop: A wrapped gift containing school books and a Bible
with tag reading “To: My Dear Child From: God With Love”

Say: Today I have some special gift that I want to give. Who will come up and receive it?

Open the gift and show it.

This is a gift that all you are already receiving, the opportunity to go to school and learn of our Loving God. Our Bible reading tells us that Jesus received that gift when He was a child in Nazareth. It also tells of how Jesus treasured this gift of learning when He was 12 years old.

Jesus was in Jerusalem with His parents, relatives and friends to celebrate the Passover. When the festivities had ended, Joseph and Mary left town to go back home with their group. They thought their twelve year old son was traveling with His friends and would find them when they camped at night. But Jesus was in the temple talking to the teachers of religion called Rabbis in one of the rooms set aside for teaching. He was listening and asking questions.

That night He could not be found in the camp and nobody had seen Him all

day. Joseph and Mary started back to Jerusalem immediately. Their son was missing and they were tormented thinking about what might have happened to Him. Was He lost? Was He hurt? Had Herod's soldier realized this was the boy they were ordered to kill when He was a baby living in Bethlehem and He was their prisoner? How terrified they were!

So when they found Him sitting with the Rabbis they were both relieved and upset. His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." Jesus answer to His mother and father has much to teach us. He said, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

They did not understand what He meant when He said, "I must be in my Father's house," and we are blessed to know what He meant now because the Bible tells us. The Bible tells us that Jesus was sent to take our place in full obedience to God's will for us. As we begin the season of Lent, we are especially mindful that He was sent to do for us what God requires. We cannot do what God requires because of our human weakness called our sinful nature. This means that no matter how hard we try we cannot please God who expects us to be perfect. That is why Jesus was celebrating the Passover and why He went to Rabbi School to worship and learn. He was in his Heavenly Father's House, doing what we should always be doing: worshiping and learning.

Also, Jesus obeyed His parents and was “submissive to them” and went back to His home town of Nazareth. In Nazareth, we can be sure He was a model son and everyone respected Him as He grew to become a man. He worked with Joseph, who served as His earthly father in his carpenter shop making farm implements for the farmers in the countryside.

He worked as a carpenter until He gathered his disciples and began teaching and healing and helping people with their problems. After a time the Rabbis turned against Him and had Him crucified. The Rabbis were angry with Jesus, the perfect man and obedient son, who criticized their practices of religion. The Bible tells us his death was also a part of His love for us, because He took our place and took the full punishment for all the wrongs that human beings do to one another including us. Now we can be sure we are on God’s side, and He loves us and cares for us all the time.

“Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world”—He even went to school and gave His whole life until His horrible death to teach us that He loves us and cares for us. There are many children in the world today who now know about Jesus’ love because of an organization called Children’s Christian Concern Society. This Society gives scholarships to children all over the world so that they can go to school and learn about Jesus. The money that you give is like this gift that we just opened. You are giving children the gift of education, especially the

opportunity to learn that Jesus died on the cross for their sins. Some of the children who come to the schools don't have good clothes and are hungry, so they get clothes, some food and are taught about the love of Jesus. Some children have to walk many miles to get to school that will also teach them about the love of Jesus. What a blessing it must be for them! We can help children all over the world in places that are not always safe with our gifts that help children go to school. It is a great privilege to know Jesus and a privilege to help boys and girls all over the world.



Chapel Talk: **Releasing Children from Poverty** “Feeding of the 5000”

Text: John 6:1-14

Prop: Lunch bag or lunch box containing 5 slices of bread and two small fish
(May be real or made from paper.)

Hold up a lunch bag or box.

Say: I’ve brought my lunch today and I am going to share it with anyone who is hungry, really hungry. Let’s pretend that it is suppertime, and you haven’t eaten since breakfast.

Invite 12 children to come to the front, who want some.

O.K. Now let’s open this up and pass it out. I hope that you are really hungry.

Hand out the bread first, counting out the pieces, and then the fish, counting them.

Share, now. Make sure that everyone gets enough. Eat up. It’s just common barley bread but it is really good. The fish are from the Sea of Galilee. Everyone likes them. Now, raise your hand if you have had enough to be satisfied. Hmm. Nobody is satisfied. Go back to your places.

How many children did we have up here? What did they have to share?

Was there enough? In the Bible reading, how many men were there. Yes, 5,000.

They were easy to count because Jesus had them sit down in groups of 50. That's 100 groups of 50. And there were thousands of women and children also. WOW!

Let's think about that day. Jesus and his disciples had just found out that their friend, John the Baptist had been arrested and killed by Herod. They got in a boat and went across the Sea of Galilee to have some time alone. The people had heard that Jesus did many wonderful things so they brought all of their sick friends and family members to Jesus and He healed them. He taught them all day. Jesus knew that they would be there all day, listening to Him. Earlier, He had asked His disciples if they had a plan to feed all of them. It seemed impossible. It would cost way too much. They would have to travel to many towns and villages to get enough food. There was no way to transport the food back to Jesus and the people. The people didn't have what they needed. The disciples didn't have what they needed. But Jesus had what they needed, using the offering of a boy, his simple lunch of two little fishes and five little loaves of bread. Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and broke it into pieces, and gave it to the disciples to distribute. Jesus did the same with the fish. The disciples just kept giving the bread and fish to people, and every time they pulled off a piece of bread there was more bread. Every time they pulled off a piece of fish, there was more fish. Everyone had enough to eat!

Our idea for the day is “releasing children from poverty.” Poverty is when you are lacking the things that you need. Many of the people who came to see Jesus were needed three things. Many of them were sick and Jesus made them well. All were hungry and Jesus fed them. All of them needed to hear Jesus tell them about their heavenly Father’s love and forgiveness. As they saw the miracle Jesus had done, they said, “This is the Prophet who is coming into the world.”

The children who are supported by the Children’s Christian Concern Society have great needs. Many of them are sick, many of them are hungry, and all of them need to hear about their heavenly Father’s love and forgiveness. Your gift will help give them the things that they need. It will release them from poverty. Some of the children will receive vitamins and nourishing drinks to keep them healthy. Some will be given food at their schools when there is little food at home. When they have completed their studies, they will be able to get better jobs to support their families. Most importantly, they will learn about Jesus death for them on the cross and that He came alive again to prepare a place for them in Heaven.

You might think that you don’t have very much to give. Look what Jesus did with one boy’s lunch! Over 5,000 were fed so much they couldn’t eat anymore. God can use even your small gifts in amazing ways. Before Jesus gave out the bread and fish, He thanked God for the gift He was about to give to others. Your

prayers of thanksgiving for the offerings you are giving are important. Ask God to make your gift to be a blessing to many. The disciple, Andrew, didn't have any food of his own to give, but found someone who did. Like Andrew, you can tell others of the need of God's children who are in poverty. You can help them to see how God can use their gifts to help others. Your prayers and offerings do make a real impact on the lives of children who now live in poverty.

Remember that we had 12 kids trying to eat one lunch. There wasn't enough. At the end of our Bible reading, Jesus directed the disciples to pick up the left over pieces, so that none would be wasted. There were 12 baskets left, enough to feed 12 more people. The money you give will help many more people than just the children who will receive your gifts. Their families will benefit as they see the hope that Jesus can give. Their teachers and their friends will be blessed as they also encourage each other in their faith. It gives God great joy because He knows the people that will be blessed in the future through the faith of the friend that you are helping.

May God bless us as we share what we have given so that others may be fully fed and satisfied.