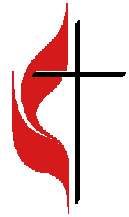




Lemont United Methodist Church Sunday School



Notes to Parents

Dear Parents,

April 2012

My husband said, "Happy Good Friday" when answering the phone today. After an awkward silence, the person on the other end replied, "Well not really; there's nothing really happy about Jesus' death." On one hand that's true. Remembering the cruel death of Jesus on the cross is awful and heartwrenching. However, the fact that he died as was prophesized does give us something to be happy about: because Jesus took the punishment for our sins, we don't have to.

This is such an abstract concept that it is often difficult for children to understand. Here's one explanation that helped me to make sense of it all; perhaps it will also help you talk to your children. God wants us to do good and follow his commandments. When we sin, we turn away from God. Hell has been described as being cut off from God. When Jesus was on the cross, he was temporarily cut off from God...suffering through hell. He even said, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

If we think about it, everything good, pure, beautiful and loving comes from God. The ultimate hell is to be cut off from all of that. Imagine being ignored by someone you love—no talking, no hugs, no care, no love. Imagine living in a world with no flowers, trees or animals. Imagine all of your friends having fun at a party or a game, but you can't attend because you did something bad. Because Jesus suffered that hell and took our punishment, we know that God will forgive our sins when we repent. He will never turn us away when we want to be with him and we will always be invited to his party. This is truly good news and it turns the awful events of Good Friday into something positive. It can give us great joy, but it also sets a great expectation because God wants us to forgive just as he forgives.

I encourage you to help your children understand Jesus' sacrifice and God's forgiving love. And why not take this opportunity to forgive someone too. Happy Parenting and Happy Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Karin Peraino & Mary Rohrer



- ✓ **Mark Your Calendars**
- ✓ 4/08 = No Sunday School; Egg Hunt at 10am
Theme: Parables that Jesus Told
- ✓ 4/15 = Sunday School resumes for all classes
- ✓ 5/06 = VBS registration

Prayer Connect

*This month's theme is
Doing Good to Others
(Galatians 6:10)*



Dear Lord,
Let my children do good to
all people, especially to
those who belong to the
family of believers.

Amen

Empty Tomb Snacks

Ingredients:

Twinkies, Round cookies,
Frosting, Shredded Coconut
(dyed green)

Directions: Spread a layer
of frosting on a paper plate.
Cut a Twinky in half and
scoop out the inside with a
spoon. Stick Twinky half
onto frosting and sprinkle
with remaining area with
coconut "grass." Place a
round cookie across the
front of the Twinky to cover
the hole. You now have a
tomb and stone that your
kids can use to act out the
resurrection.

Rock Solid

Classes K-6 are using the Rock Solid curriculum. Check it out on www.iamrocksolid.com.

Spring 2012

Date	Bible Story	Bible Point	Scripture	Key Verses
4/15	Three on the Road to Emmaeus	Jesus is Alive!	Luke 24:13-35	<i>The LORD really has risen!</i>
4/22	Breakfast on the Beach	It's our turn to continue Jesus' work	John 21:1-19	<i>Take care of my sheep</i>
4/29	The Great Commission	Christians should share the good news that Jesus lives!	Matthew 28:16-20	<i>Go and make disciples of all nations</i>
5/06	Peter and John heal	Disciples of Jesus share God's love with others.	Acts 3:1-10	<i>I don't have any money, but I will give you what I do have</i>
5/13	Peter's gift	Disciples of Jesus come together to worship, pray, & serve	Acts 5:12-15	<i>Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them</i>
5/20	Dorcas & Peter	There are many ways that Christians serve others.	Acts 9:36-43	<i>Serve each other according to the gift each person has received</i>

(Note: For Spring, the Jr. High lessons correspond to the confirmation curriculum, Claim the Name. HS Breakfast Club hold discussions based on Talksheets.)



Thought for the Month

"For if you forgive people their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

~Matthew 6:14