

FEBRUARY 7, 2021



Children's Message

HEALING • EPIPHANY 5 • YEAR B

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 40:21-31 • Psalm 147:1-11, 20c • 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 • Mark 1:29-39

Select one of these options to create a children's message to fit kids' interests and gifts and your congregation's size and sanctuary features. You can finish your time together with the prayer.

READ THE STORY

Place a bookmark on page 278 in the Whirl Story Bible. Today's healing story is also the story of all the work our hands do. Look at the pictures and describe what everyone's hands are doing . . . (Jesus' hands are healing, Simon's mother-in-law's hands are feeding, friends' hands bring people who need healing, etc.)

What can your hands do? Clap and snap. Fold your hands for prayer. Hold a friend's hand. Our hands do lots of things . . .

WONDER ABOUT THE STORY

I wonder why Jesus went off by himself . . .

Jesus went off by himself quite a bit. Whenever he was tired or needed to think or pray, Jesus left the crowds and went off for some quiet time. We can do that too. Ask kids to share stories about when they like to have quiet time. Some people go on retreats or sabbaticals. (You might talk about the retreat opportunities your congregation offers.)

WITNESS THE STORY

Invite a couple of folks in your congregation (prearranged) to answer the question "How do you serve God with your hands?" Try to have a wide variety: a parent who changes diapers, a nurse who takes temperatures, an artist who sculpts/paints, a musician who plays music, etc. Invite them to bring a prop so that they can demonstrate what they do with their hands.

SEE THE STORY

Look around the worship space for hands. Are there any on the paraments, in the windows or art? If your group is truly stumped, ask everyone in the congregation to raise/wave their hands. Look at all those hands! Busy hands, just like the hands in the story!

WONDER ABOUT THE SEASON

Place a gold star with Simon Peter's name on it somewhere in the worship space—in plain sight, but not immediately noticeable. Bring a large flashlight and have the kids take turns shining it around (you'll need to turn off the overhead lights) until they find the gold star. Focus the flashlight's beam on the star. Get the star. Simon was one of Jesus' disciples. He followed Jesus and was always amazed at the things Jesus did. Read the story of Simon Peter and Jesus from the Whirl Study Bible.

SING THE STORY

Sing "S/He's Got the Whole World in Her/His Hands."

Additional hand-focused verses:
God's got our little hands and big hands
in her hands . . .
God's got our fingers and our thumbs
in his hands . . .
God's got our wrists and our fingernails
in her hands . . .

PRAYER

Light the Epiphany candle and pray together. Give thanks for all of the hands that work so hard in our world, give thanks for healing that takes place, and give thanks for light in the darkness.

