



# DIACONAL SUNDAY

February 26, 2017

## CHILDREN'S CHAT By Sister Val Sander

**GOAL:** To use a simple paper chain to both illustrate and engage children in an understanding of Diaconal Ministry: telling of God's love; listening to others; serving.

**SUGGESTED MATERIALS:**

- several strips of differently coloured paper (red, blue, green)
- clear tape
- black Sharpie marker
- newsprint and/or a solid tray so that the marker does not go through to clothing or carpet
- a small bowl with water, a small cedar (or other) branch.

*\* A good idea would be to have an assistant who could do the writing on the paper strips, as the leader engages responses from the children.*

*Items written in red italics are directions/suggestions... make it your own to fit your group.*

**LEADER:**

In today's gospel lesson, Jesus takes his disciples up to a mountain. And while they were there something really awesome happened. While they are praying together, Jesus' appearance changes and his clothes glow in dazzling white. It is a sign that Jesus is God's son.

Jesus invited his disciples up the mountain so that he could connect with them by talking together and praying together. Jesus wanted to tell the disciples more about God's love for everyone; and Jesus wanted to listen to what his disciples had to say.

When you were baptized, you also became a disciple. In fact, I'm going to remind you of your Baptism right now

*Prepare the group so that no one is startled, make it fun... either a splash or a tap on the head with the branch dipped in the bowl.*

As disciples, Jesus wants us to love others just as much as he loves us. He wants us to tell good news of Jesus, and to listen to the needs of the world.

*Use red paper strips for this part.*

Lets see if we can link listening and telling together... What's a good thing that the church can tell the world about Jesus?

*Hum "Jesus Loves Me."*





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Right! Jesus loves you & you & you and the peoples of the world!

*Write: "Jesus Loves YOU" on one strip of paper.*

How about when we pray? Who listens? Yes, God listens when we pray

*Write: "God Listens" on another strip.*

And here's another good thing the church has to say to the world—sometimes the Holy Spirit has to help us with this one: everyone is invited; everyone is welcome.

*Write: "All Welcome" on another. Add any other responses to paper strips.*

This is all really good news we have to tell the world.

*Switch to blue strips.*

As disciples, we are also called to listen to the needs of the world? What are some things people in the world need?

*Be ready to elicit responses with questions like: what do people need when they have to leave their home because it's dangerous (refugees)? Ideas like: Safe place to Live; Good Food; Clean Water; Take Better Care of the Earth; People are Lonely. All get written on the blue paper strips.*

There are sure many things to listen to from the world.

*Switch to green strips of paper.*

Jesus also wants us to love others just as much as he loves us. I'm sure you can think of ways to show that love to people in your family, in your school, in your community.

*Be prepared with scenarios to elicit responses like: sharing/caring for siblings, speaking up for a friend at school, maybe volunteering at the food bank with your family. All these get shortened to a few words each and written on the paper strips.*

Remember we are called to tell, and listen, and connect. Do you think we could connect all our Jesus love (red), and what we listened to from the world (blue), and all the ways to help that you thought of today (green)?

*Hopefully the children will suggest a chain, or even connecting them end to end. You may want to ask if they want to put all like colours—and what they represent—together, or mix up the order. Let them go to work with the tape.*





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Today in our Lutheran churches we are remembering Diaconal Ministers. Diaconal Ministers are endorsed by the church for a ministry of Word and Service. You might see Diaconal Ministers doing many different things (like musician, nurse, teacher, community organizer). Through their service, Diaconal Ministers take Good News out into the world and then listen to bring what the world needs back to the Church.

And part of the work of Diaconal Ministers is helping all disciples to tell, and listen, and connect.

*Honour what the children make by placing it in a particular place such as: on the altar, draped over the font, or pinned to a bulletin board.*

### **PRAYER:**

*Leader can pray, or children repeat each line after the leader.*

Dear God,  
Thank you for listening to prayer  
Thank you for Jesus' love  
Help us to tell, listen, and connect  
Help us to welcome all people  
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

