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I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

—Psalm 145 NRSV

Children's Messages

We All Need to Work Together

Preparation

Put together a collection of full-sized or children's tools to illustrate the story you will tell. You will need a hammer, screwdriver, ruler, sandpaper and saw.

Message

Do you remember that Jesus was a carpenter? I'd like to share a legend with you about some of the tools in Jesus' carpentry shop. The story goes like this: After Jesus died and rose again, he went back to his Father in Heaven. The tools he left behind saw that Jesus was gone and called a meeting.

(Hold up the hammer). The hammer wanted to be in charge, but the other tools thought he was too noisy. "Well," said the hammer, "I may be noisy, but I get things done. Look at Sister Screwdriver. You have to turn her around and around to get her to accomplish anything."

(Hold up the screwdriver) "Oh my," said Sister Screwdriver. "I wasn't going to say anything, but I really must point out that it's Brother Sandpaper who has a lot of problems. He is so rough and is always rubbing people the wrong way."

(Hold up the Sandpaper) "Well, at least I smooth things out," said Brother Sandpaper. "That Brother Ruler should also be asked to withdraw. He is always measuring folks as though he were the only one who is right."

In the middle of all this loud discussion, in walked the risen carpenter of Nazareth. He went right to work making a pulpit from which to tell the Good News story of salvation. He used the hammer, the screwdriver, the sandpaper, the ruler and all the other tools in the toolbox. After Jesus' pulpit was finished, Sister Saw (*hold up the saw*) said, "Brothers and Sisters,

I see that all of us are needed and are workers together with the Lord."

All the people in God's church are like the tools in Jesus' toolbox. We are all special and can do different things. It is part of God's good plan that we are not all alike. All our lives, we should be looking for what kind of tool God want us to be to help him build a strong church. God needs each one of us and we are all different but important tools. Let's remember to thank God for making us all different and for giving us each a job to do.

Mark Quade: ELCA stewardship leader. Mark, his wife Cindy, and their two college-aged sons are members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

