

Family Connections

March 24 - April 28



I am....

Family Connections

March 29th - Palm Sunday: The children will participate in the palm procession with the congregation (gather in Fellowship Hall at 10:00). The procession will move to the narthex. When it is time for the congregation to process into the worship space, the children will go to Fellowship Hall to read the Passion Narrative together with their teachers. (Children in preschool will have a separate lesson in their classroom). The children will rejoin their parents at 10:40.

No Church School on Sunday, March 31 – Easter

Unit 8: April 7- May 5

During the Easter season, our lessons will focus on four of Jesus' "I Am" statements: the bread of life, the good shepherd, the true vine and the light of the world. Jesus used these metaphors to help us understand his relationship with God and with us. They are wonderful, concrete examples that will encourage the children to trust Jesus and follow in his ways.

I AM the Bread of Life - April 7th (1st/2nd - May 5)

- In this story, Jesus fed thousands of people with a small amount of bread and fish. The story says, "Jesus blessed the bread." Do you think he said, "God, this isn't enough food for all these people!" or do you think he said, "Thank you" even though it was just a little bit?
- We all join together for the Eucharist. Eucharist means "the great thanksgiving." The bread reminds us of the body of Christ Jesus.
- When we eat the bread, we remember all the things Jesus did for us, and we are thankful.
- Have you ever been disappointed because you didn't get something you wanted? Have you ever felt jealous, lonely, or scared?

- Sometimes we try to fill up our lives with things, and we hope they will make us feel better so we won't be lonely or jealous anymore.
- Jesus showed us that we should be grateful - we should say "thank you" for whatever we have.
- When Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life" it was to remind us that our lives will be full when we live as he did.
- The bread of life nourishes Jesus' believers with new life, new hope, and new possibilities.

I AM the True Vine - April 14th

- This story sounds like it's about a vine and some branches, but it is really about God, Jesus, and us.
- When we are connected to Jesus, we can bear good fruit. That means when we follow Jesus and learn from him, we will do good things. What kinds of things do we learn by following or copying Jesus? (helping others, loving others, forgiving, loving God, being kind, etc.)
- What happens to branches that are not connected to the vine? Can they live on their own? (Not for long. They dry up and die).
- If we are not connected to Jesus and we don't try to learn from him, we may not know what God wants us to do. If we want to bear good fruit with our lives, we should always stay closely connected to God.

I AM the Good Shepherd - April 21nd

- Jesus is like a good shepherd. When we are lost, Jesus will lead us back to God.
- How does the shepherd's voice make the sheep feel? (happy, comforted, safe, familiar.)
- What does the good shepherd do if a dangerous wolf comes? (he protects the sheep)
- What do you think a bad shepherd would do? Why? (leave, not protect the sheep because he doesn't really care about them).
- If Jesus is like a good shepherd who leads us TO God, a bad shepherd might be like someone who tried to lead us AWAY from God.
- We all sin and wander away from God sometimes, but when we turn back to God then God rejoices, just like the shepherd who was happy to find his lost sheep.

- Is the Good Shepherd willing to die for his sheep? (Yes) Was Jesus willing to die for us? (Yes)

I AM the Light of the World - April 28th (1st/2nd- April 7th)

- Sometimes we may have a hard time remembering all of God's commandments, but God gave us another way. Jesus came into the world to show us the way. We could see his life and follow him.
- Some groups imagined being in a dark cave and not knowing where to go. Suddenly a person appears with a light and says "follow me." Jesus is like this person. When we trust in him and follow the example of his life, he will show us the way to God's eternal life.
- What are some of the things we have learned from watching Jesus? (being obedient to God, being kind to others, forgiving others, feeding people who are hungry, telling others about God's love, praying to God, etc.)
- Whenever we do something kind for others, Jesus' light is shining through us.