

March 7, 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Lent, a season in which we examine our relationships with God and prepare for the coming of Easter. In Sunday school, students will also do this by learning more about the season, the holiday of Easter, and Jesus' relationships with us and others. Today your children heard the story of "**Jesus and Bartimaeus**" (from Matthew 20: 29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18: 35-43). This story reminds us to keep our faith in God. He can and does do amazing things for those who believe in Him!

To help your children remember and reflect on the story and their response to it, I would encourage you to ask them some of the following questions; then be prepared for potentially lively discussions of faith! What was important to you in God's story for today? Show me or tell me how you responded to God's word today. I wonder how it feels to be blind? I wonder how it feels to see for the very first time? I wonder how Bartimaeus felt following Jesus on the way to Jerusalem?

This Month's Stories: "**Jesus and Zacchaeus**" (from Luke 19:1-10), "**Jesus the King**" (from Matthew 21: 1-11), and "**Jesus' Last Passover**" (from Matthew 26: 26-28).

As always, if you would like to learn more about this fantastic Sunday school program, or you have any questions about something in this letter, I would love to hear from you!

Wishing you blessings,

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Important Reminders:

☺ Our Sunday school children will again participate in a meaningful Lenten mission project. A portion of all Sunday school offering money during Lent will be donated to Heifer International, along with all proceeds from the marketplace and the **Fill the Ark** campaign. If your child did not receive an activity calendar and ark to fill, please see your child's classroom teacher for those supplies.

Collection of filled Arks will begin on Palm Sunday, March 28th, in classrooms and Fellowship Hall.

☺ Planning to worship with us on Easter morning? **During the 9am service**, we will have a Sunday school activity for all children age 3 through grade 2. Join us to watch **Veggie Tales' "An Easter Carol"**, and then make a fun craft project. We will meet in the Gym after children's time. Hope to see you there!

This Month's Nurturing the Family Tip: "An Unlikely Picnic" Sometimes a change of pace – and place – at meal time can turn spring fever into fun! Pack a meal ahead of time and hide it along with a picnic blanket and Bible in your living room, or another unlikely dining spot. When kids start asking when it's going to be time to eat, lead them to the unexpected place and ask them to help you set up your picnic blanket. Before you eat, read from John 6:1-15. Point out that a child was the one who offered to share what he had and the grown-ups thought he was foolish. Explain that Jesus showed how even a child can make a difference. Jesus blessed the boy's gift, and it miraculously served the enormous crowd; there were even leftovers! Ask your children about a time they had a good idea that made a difference for another person, their school, or community. Encourage them to realize that their ideas can make a difference in the world. Offer a prayer of thanks – for the food God provides daily for your family and for blessing your children as difference-makers. Then enjoy your picnic!

(Adapted from Children's Ministry Magazine, March/April 2010)