

4.22.12

## Walking Dusty...

teacher: Communion

This morning, before we went to church, I discovered that one of my children had stolen money from a sibling – again. I was extremely angry, especially since the same thing had happened less than a month ago. Harsh words and exaggerated consequences spewed out of my mouth. Needless to say, it wasn't a great way to start the morning.

We got to church and started the service by singing, "Oh, Happy Day!" The chorus says, "Oh happy day, happy day! You washed my sin away. Oh happy day, happy day! I'll never be the same. Forever I am changed!" I love that song because it celebrates God's forgiveness for my sin. As a believer, I know this is true. But as a mom, I had to wonder if my son understands. Even though he was caught in sin, does he realize that he can trust Jesus and be completely forgiven? Does he recognize that there's nothing he can do that will separate him from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus? Does he know that trusting Jesus means he is being made into a new creation? And I had to ask myself if I would show a friend more grace than I was willing to show my son.

I think most of us are either lawbreakers or law keepers – or a combination of the two. Some of us think we are too bad for God to ever accept us. We think we've gone too far and that we could never be loved. On the other hand, some of us believe we are perfect law keepers. We think we are righteous because we play by the rules, and we're really good at telling others when they don't. Deep inside, though, we know we don't always get it right. The problem is that both are wrong.

My son needs to know that as a lawbreaker he can be forgiven. His siblings (the law keepers) must learn that what they perceive as their own goodness still falls short of God's standard. Only Jesus' perfect obedience and death on a cross carried out God's requirement for forgiveness of sin. And for that we can shout "Oh, Happy Day!!!"

### Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39)

As Dan prepared us for communion, he talked about:

Reflection – Examining our hearts

Celebration – Jesus' death and resurrection gives us hope

Community – We "do" life together

***This month's memory verse:*** "Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written; The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.' Luke 24:45

**Additional Verses:** 1 Corinthians 11:26, 28, 33; Romans 8:38-39

**Reminders:**

4.29 –The Gathering at SHU at 10am... “Family Fun Morning -Mosaic’s got Talent“

Join us as we come gather this week to simply celebrate life through laughter & community together!  
This will be an hour long family experience that you will not want to miss. Then lunch together @ Island Park!

**Radical Reminder:**

I will pray for the entire world.

I will read through the entire Word.

I will sacrifice my money for a specific purpose.

I will spend time in another context.

I will commit my life to a multiplying community.

How am I doing in each of these areas?