

Worship Resources
by the Older Adult Council of the Virginia Conference
for Older Adult Recognition Sunday 2018
(May 6, 2018 or any Sunday between Mother's Day and Father's Day)

Lectionary Readings:

John 15:9-17 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants[a] any longer, because the servant[b] does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Footnotes:

John 15:15 Gk slaves

John 15:15 Gk slave

Acts 10:44-48 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Litany from Psalm 98, page 818 in the UMH

CHILDREN'S SERMON **by Jenny Lucas**

Based on Acts 10:44-48

In our scripture today the early church leaders were amazed that God showed them very clearly that God's love is for all people, from all places, who have all kinds of backgrounds.

Ask the children: "Do you have any friends at school whose family came from another country?"

Many families that live in the United States may not even speak English in their homes.

Share a picture of children from different cultures. If you have dolls or artifacts from your travels that would represent different cultures, bring them to share.



(I did a Goggle.com images search for children from different cultures and found this picture.)

Ask: "How do you think it would feel to move to your city from a foreign country?"

Ask: "What could you do to help a person feel welcome in our church?"

If God's love is for ALL people, we should find ways to share His love with people who look different. We should include people who do not speak

English clearly. We should love those who dress differently/ eat different kinds of foods.

God created each human being as a special person. Look at the person next to you and say, "GOD LOVES YOU". (Adults in the congregation should say this too!)

Closing prayer: (Have children repeat each short phrase out loud after you.)

Dear God,

Thank you for loving ALL people.

Thank you for our great nation filled with all types of people.

Help us to show your love to everyone we meet.

Amen.

Based on John 15:9-17

Question: How do you know you are loved?

Answers: Someone says "I love you"

My parents buy me things

Question: How do you show love to another person?

Answers: Hugs and kisses

Give gifts

Do things for them

Spend time with them

In the Gospel of John, chapter 15, Jesus teaches us to "love each other as He loved you."

Question: How did Jesus show his love for people?

Answers: He fed the hungry

He healed the sick

Jesus spent time with people and told them he loved them.

He died on the cross for our sins

Jesus taught us to show love to others. Jesus wants us to use Him as an example.

Can we find ways to feed the hungry? (church food pantry)

Can we help people who are sick?

Can we spend time with people who are lonely and don't feel loved?

Closing prayer: (Have children repeat each short phrase out loud after you.)

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to earth

Thank you for showing us how to love

Help us to be loving to our families

Help us to be loving to our friends at school

Help us to show all people love

So they can know God loves them too.

In Jesus Name

Amen

You are important members of our church. We want you to feel the love from all of us—even us older adults. I am going to show you how much we love you by giving you something...

Hand each child Hugs and Kisses (Candy made by Hershey). You may also want to give each child a physical hug as they leave to go to their seats.

Sermon Starters for 2018

by Suzanne Spencer

Themes from either scripture:

Holy Spirit

Love One Another

Joy

Abide, Commands

Chosen to go and bear Fruit

Jesus came for all

John 15:9-17

Thesis: Complete joy comes from abiding in Jesus by obeying his commandment to love one another.

Start the message with a question about experiencing joy. How much joy have you had this week? What was the greatest moment of joy in your life? Would you like some joy in your life? How long did your joy last? etc.

Jesus has told us how to know joy. Contrary to what the world teaches, complete joy comes from abiding in Jesus, obeying what he teaches. Jesus chooses his disciples to bear lasting (eternal) fruit, and tells us the way to do so is by loving one another. When we live in him as we go out into the world, we demonstrate by our joy and our actions what it means to love. The greatest love of all is "laying down" our lives and taking on the one he gives. He has set the example by laying down his own life. Jesus' model of servant leadership demonstrates how to love. Look for examples of loving service to others among your older and experienced members. Older adults are often good examples of how to love, but also need to be challenged. Active seniors need encouragement to share their faith stories with younger disciples. This may be a good opportunity to schedule a program of intergenerational sharing. Frailer seniors may feel they are not able to be of service. Give those, who are more frail examples, such as fasting, praying for and encouraging one another, which do not make physical demands of those, who are challenged.

Acts 10:44-48

Thesis: Jesus has made a way through the Holy Spirit's presence for all, who hear the Word to believe and know the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many older adults have been faithful, active members of the local church all of their lives, and never experienced the joy of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. You may be surprised to learn many of these same people are uncertain if they have "lived a good enough life" to go to heaven. There is a generation, who have accepted the lie that only professionals are equipped to share the Word. Every disciple is called upon to share the Word within the local church and in the world. This may be a good opportunity to talk about grace and review Wesley's quadrilateral, certainly with nods to scripture, reason, and tradition, but emphasizing experience and that "heart strangely warmed." Perhaps calling attention to opportunities for experiencing the Holy Spirit's power might include service opportunities in the community, short term mission trips, prison ministry, and Walk to Emmaus weekends. Note: Financial giving may be included (see Luther's third conversion, "first the heart, then the mind, then the pocketbook.") Challenging the congregation to plan intergenerational opportunities for

seniors to remember and share their own spiritual walks may give an opportunity for application.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR OLDER ADULT SUNDAY

ALL HYMNS CAN BE FOUND IN THE UNITED METHODIST HYMNAL

by Marie Hawks

For John 15:9-17

O How I Love Jesus	170
In the Garden	314
Take My Life, and Let It Be	399
Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love	422
More Love to Thee, O Christ	453
Jesus Is All the World to Me	469
What a Friend We Have in Jesus	526
Blest Be the Tie That Binds	557
Help Us Accept Each Other	560
Abide with Me	700

For Acts 10:44-48

Many Gifts, One Spirit	114
On Eagle's Wings	143
Surely the Presence of the Lord	328
Sweet, Sweet Spirit	334
Spirit Song	347
Spirit of the Living God	393
Breathe on Me, Breath of God	420
O Spirit of the Living God	539
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord	540
Help Us Accept Each Other	560