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**Week 1 Childrens Talk: Why Church?**

MAIN POINT

**Through His Spirit, Jesus gives the Church the gifts of His presence, peace, and forgiveness. These are gifts that keep on giving as we share them with others.**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS  
John 20:18-30

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (v21)

AIDS

Objects that are comforting when you are afraid. e.g., a blanket, teddy, a torch, a picture representing a family member or friend.

ADDRESS  
**Today’s gospel reading takes place near the end of the book of John, three days after Jesus died on the cross. After Mary Magdalene told the disciples that Jesus was raised from the dead and she had seen Him, we might think that the disciples would be excited and happy! But John’s gospel tells us that they were scared. They were staying together in a locked room, because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.**

**Why might the disciples have been afraid?**

(e.g., they didn’t understand what had happened to Jesus, or didn’t believe He had risen again. They might have been worried they had let Him down, or that the Jewish leaders would arrest them like they had arrested Jesus)

**What are some things you are afraid of?**

(e.g., spiders, lions, sharks, the dark, bad dreams)

**What are some things that make you feel better when you are afraid?**

(e.g., being safe from the scary thing, a hug, a blanket, turning the light on, *being with a parent or someone you know who loves you – not being alone*)

*Use aids to illustrate.*

**Lots of things are less scary when we’re not alone. When Jesus’ disciples were afraid, Jesus came and stood among them. He gave them the gift of His *presence*. Seeing that Jesus was alive and ok, the disciples were overflowing with joy and happiness!**

**And Jesus didn’t just stand with them, He also told them “Peace be with you!” – do not be afraid! In fact, He told them this three times! He gave them the gift of His peace.**

**And Jesus gave His disciples His Holy Spirit.**

**Through His Holy Spirit, Jesus lives in us, His Church, and He sends us to other people to share His peace and forgiveness with them.**

**What are some ways we can share Jesus’ peace and forgiveness with people we know?**

(e.g., comforting and helping people when they are worried or afraid, praying for them, forgiving people when they are unkind to us, asking other people to forgive us when we make mistakes)

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for your peace and forgiveness. Holy Spirit, please help us to share the good news of peace and forgiveness with others. Amen.