

SERMON NOTES FOR KIDS - October 18, 2020 Philippians 3:1-11

The Bible Reading today comes from a letter that a guy named Paul wrote. Did you even know that the Bible has letters in it? Yeah it does! And so who is this guy named Paul? Well, the story of Paul's life is pretty amazing. Paul was TRANSFORMED by God - he was really changed! Do you know some superheroes who transform into something different when they go to



save the world? Superman goes into a phone booth and transforms from a normal guy into a superhero with a cape and then he flies off to save the world! Maybe you know of another superhero who changes or transforms into something amazing! Well, it was kind of like that for Paul, except that Paul wasn't changed in the way he looked, he was changed in his HEART. Paul was not a very nice guy before he was transformed by God. He was a bully and he had a lot of anger in his heart and he

was really stuck on making sure people followed the rules that he thought were important.

But he did not have LOVE in his heart. Getting to know God changed Paul completely. He became like a different person! WHY? Well, God changed Paul because he had a really important job for him to do. God wanted Paul to help build the Christian church. No, not "build" it like with bricks and a hammer and nails! The "church" is not the building -the church is the PEOPLE who believe in the message of love that Jesus taught. Paul had the big job of helping the



early church people to grow in their faith. How did he do that? He visited all the church communities and gave the people pep talks, kind of like a soccer coach does with their team. What kind of words do you think he used? "You can do it". "Keep trying". "Don't give up". Even when he couldn't be with them, he wrote them letters to encourage them



and to teach them. In today's letter Paul reminded the church in a place called Philippi that they should REJOICE (that means expressing really big happiness) because God loves them, and that they should always remember that following Jesus' message of love is not just about following a big list of rules, but it is about LOVING

Jesus and learning more and more about how to show that kind of love to others around us. Jesus always LOVED FIRST. And so that is today's lesson - following a big list of rules isn't the most important thing about having a friendship with Jesus, LOVING FIRST is the most important thing. Paul really learned this when God transformed him, and Paul wanted his friends in the church of Philippi to know that too.

There is a colouring page attached that has a whole bunch of hearts on it to remind you of today's lesson to always think of LOVE FIRST. While you colour, your adults can put the sermon on and listen to Reverend McMaster, so they can have some time to "plant their own seeds" and you can have time to colour, maybe have a small snack and think about today's lesson. What does it mean to you to "LOVE FIRST"? Maybe on another page you can also draw a picture of a flower and the soil and the watering can you can use to water it, to remind you of how we want to keep growing your faith like a flower in a garden. When the sermon is done for your adults, there will be another song or maybe two to sing and dance to, and a prayer. And then the service will be over. But will the gardening be over? Nooo...Now you have to water the seed! That means to talk about what you learned, and think about it throughout the week. See if you can focus on LOVE FIRST at school and at home, like Paul encouraged his friends to do.

Well, the last part of gardening is "weeding". This is the part of gardening that sometimes is not a lot of fun, but it is needed to make sure the seeds can grow into big strong flowers. It makes a gardener feel so good when they look back at the garden when the weeds have been removed. Weeding, when it comes to faith, might be kind of like what we do when we go to bed at night. We can think back over our day and think about the things that went well, the things that worried us, or the things that we think we could have done better. Then we can pray to God to help us with these things. A great little song to listen to about this is; Veggie Tales "My day". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cROXxgPMzHA>.

We would love it if you would share your colouring with us from today's service!
admin@eastminsterunited.ca We might be able to show your colouring on a future service!
We would love to hear about how your family is working on your Faith Garden at home!

If your family plans to come to in-person church, you can do some of this before coming to church, and you can still bring your page to colour during church. We will have boxes of crayons available that can be assigned to your family, and kept in a mailbox at the church to pick up when you come.

God Bless you and your family this week! Stay Safe! Love First!

Eastminster United

For a fantastic family devotional based on the different seasons of the church, check out the "GOOD DIRT" books by Lacy Finn Borgo and Ben Barczi "A Devotional for the Spiritual Formation of Families", which inspired the above description of gardening as a metaphor for spiritual growth.

