

The Adopted Life

Ascension Sunday ~ 06.05.2011

An Ascension Children's Lesson

Text: John 17:1-11

Activity: Fill a jar you can seal (a quart jar works fine), about 1/3 full with water, and add enough bright-colored food coloring (red, dark blue, etc.) to make it readily visible. Add another 1/3 of a jar or so of vegetable oil. The oil will float on the water. When you shake the jar vigorously, the oil and water will "mix" and become a single, colored liquid. But if left to stand (a half minute is usually lots of time), it becomes clear that the water, while it was very much "in" the oil, never really became "of" the oil; it always maintained its own identity. Also interesting to note is that the oil doesn't remain absolutely clear; there is a slight reddish (or bluish, or whatever) tinge to it.

Lesson: *Being in but not of the world does make a change in the world.*

Because of Who Jesus is as the Father's Son, and who we are in Him, when He ascended to His Father in glory, all of humanity ascended in Him. We now all share in his and the Father's glory and can mix it up and proclaim this Good News to everyone confidently.

However, because we are distinct, we can trust or not trust that truth. In this children's lesson, let the water be representative of those who believe this truth, and the oil representative of those who don't believe that truth. The first point to be made is that all people (those who trust and those who don't) are in Jesus. However, like the oil and water, even though we are all in the same container (Jesus) and world we can't live in the oneness for which we are designed when we don't trust the truth (demonstrated by the division of oil and water even though still together in Christ).

BUT, as represented by the tinge of color in the oil when the fluids settle and take their stand, those who trust that they are in Jesus still have a positive impact on the world and should continue to proclaim the Gospel to everyone in the power, hope and truth of humanity's ascension through Jesus, in the Spirit!

~ *Tim Brassell*

Adapted from a sermon by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild on the Ascension at www.seminary.com