

## Children's Message

9.21.08

Good morning.

Guess what? I have a little game for you this week! It's called: What's Missing. Let's play.

Question 1: Look at this cookie- what's missing?

Question 2: Look at this picture- what's missing? Good!

Wow- you are really great at this little game. Let me try a harder one.

Question 3: Look at my iPod- I can't hear any of my music- what's missing?

Question 4: Look at this math problem- what's missing?

Okay. Those didn't stump you. Let me give you another one.

Question 5: You are on the playground playing 4 square and someone else wants to play, but no one will let that new person take their place. What's missing?

Question 6: You are walking down the hall on your way to your classroom and a bunch of coats are lying on the floor and everyone is just walking by. What's missing?

You ARE good at this game. Ok- this one will certainly get you.

Question 7: You are in the back seat of the car and you and your brother and sister are fighting. "You did no!" "No, you did it!" "She did it...." What's missing?

I have to tell you, I had a tough time with my children's message for today. And while I was sitting there getting frustrated about it all, I read an article that a friend gave to me. It was called "Be What's Missing." And right then, I knew that that was exactly what I needed to talk to you about today.

Do you think it could be possible, when you are in a bad situation or watching a bad situation, that you could stop and think- "What's Missing?" and then do your very best to *be* that missing thing?

- ♥ Could you stop in the middle of an argument with your brother and think, "What's missing?" Maybe forgiveness, love, or patience?
- ♥ What if you were in a store with friends and someone was going to steal a pack of gum. Could you stop and think, "What's missing?" Maybe courage to stand up for what's right?
- ♥ What if you were in your Sunday school room and a bunch of the kids are fooling around and not listening to the teacher. Could you stop and think, "What's missing?" I don't know, maybe its respect.

And what would happen if you figured out what was missing and then you *were* that thing. You showed forgiveness when you were in a fight; you stood up for what was right when you saw your friends making a bad decision; you helped show other kids, by your good example, how to be respectful to adults. I think I know what would happen- you would be part of making a bad situation, better.

You would be doing exactly what Jesus taught us to do. Jesus certainly was in plenty of bad situations, and He saw perfectly what was missing and He became that thing. Jesus is the perfect example of being what is missing.

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer?