

Children's Message
10.21.07

Bring: umbrella with "Rejoice in the Lord always!" taped underneath. Slips of paper with one of my worries listed on each piece. Additional slips of paper to write down their worries. Sharpie marker.

Good morning.

I don't really feel like talking about good things today. I have to tell you- I had the worst time falling asleep last night because I kept worrying about all the things I have to do this week. I even tried writing them down as I thought about them to see if that would help. (I have to take the cat to the vet, I have to go to CPR training, I have to work on next year's VBS curriculum, I have a bunch of thank you notes I have to write, I need to get to the grocery store...) And today doesn't seem much better. (I think I've even caught a bit of a cold!)

So, how about you? What have you been worrying about lately? I think I'll write those down, too, to add to my pile!

Doesn't it seem like worries are just raining down on us sometimes? I think we need something to make us more prepared so we don't get so down in the dumps and anxious.

Here, let's see if this helps. *(Give a child the umbrella)*

Here, hold up this umbrella and we'll see if it keep the worries away from you. *(Throw papers at the umbrella and at some of the unprotected children.)*

Look at that- the umbrella protected you from those bad things! That's amazing! That's an incredible umbrella! It must be what's underneath the umbrella that made it work so well. What's under there? What does that say? Rejoice in the Lord always!

That's something that the apostle Paul wrote when he was really having a bad day and had lots more to worry about than homework. Paul was in prison. I'm sure he was hurt and hungry and cold and uncomfortable. And he surely didn't know what was going to happen to him next.

But, while he was feeling that way he wrote those words: Rejoice in the Lord Always! Paul is telling us that no matter what happens in our lives, no matter what worries we have, no matter what goes wrong...God is there with us, caring for us, loving us.

God's love is our umbrella- protecting us from all the sadness and worries of our lives.

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