

Children's Message

8.19.07

Good morning. Oh my goodness- its getting close! The first day of a new school year. I know that there are some kids in our church who are going back to school tomorrow!

So, I decided that there was only one thing to do in light of that fact- brush up on some math facts! Ready? Okay- what's $4+2$? What's $4-2$? What's 4×2 ? Wow- you're pretty good. Good thing school is starting soon- before you forget all of that. I have a hard one- What's $4/2$?

Division is a funny thing- even when you have addition, subtraction and multiplication down pat- division can stump you. But when you really stop and think about it- it isn't too hard. It's just taking a whole thing and dividing into parts. My brother and I had fabulous ways of dividing things when we were kids- like dessert. We had a rule that the person who cut (or divided the dessert) didn't get to pick their piece first. Or the newspaper- we divided that, too- the first person to grab it and run the fastest got the comics!

I can divide you, too. As you all sit here, you are one group. But if I said, "Everyone who likes gym class best at school sit here and everyone who likes art class at school best sit over here." I think that would divide you from being a whole group. Probably evenly! Or who likes cheese pizza and who likes pepperoni pizza. Or who wants to play in the band and who wants to sing in the choir. (Just don't tell Mrs. Sliwinski if you choose band!)

People just aren't the same. God made each one of us different. We think about things differently. We like different things. Well, in the Bible we can read about a time when Jesus said that he would be dividing things. Hmm. But what did He mean? I always think of Jesus as someone who brings us together- after all, He brought all of us together here today.

What he meant was that some people would believe in Him and follow what He taught, but there would be others who wouldn't believe and wouldn't follow His ways. That means that people would be divided. Jesus even said that some families may be divided, too. Even though this isn't what Jesus wanted, and He certainly didn't intend for this to happen- He said it would happen. People would be divided because of Him.

It really is an interesting thing that Jesus said, but I think what is also interesting is that Jesus didn't tell us what to do about it- He told us we would be divided, but not how to fix it. Could it be that we already know what we need to do? We know how to put a whole back together when it is in pieces? I don't know-but I think maybe we do. Do we know how to fix a friendship when it is broken? Do we know how to stop fighting with our brothers and sisters? Do we already know how to follow what Jesus teaches? I think so. It just isn't always the easiest thing to do. Sometimes the right thing, like healing a friendship, is pretty tricky, it's pretty hard.

So, yes, Jesus did tell us that we would be divided- but this is NOT what Jesus wants for us. Jesus wants us to do the right thing, the hard thing- to listen to what he teaches and do what he teaches- then maybe, we can be a part of bringing what's divided, back together.

Pastor Sue Ann, will you please lead us in prayer?