

Children's Sermon for Dec. 15 (based on Mt. 112-11)

Items needed: 4 peppermint candies, black magic marker. Beforehand, use the marker to color two of the peppermints black.

After the kids come up, tell them that many people have different kinds of candies at Christmastime. Ask them what their favorite candy is. Then take out the two uncolored peppermints and ask them what candy they are. Point out the two colors--red and white---how they are cheerful colors. Tell them that, now you are going to show them a different kind of mint candy. Take out the two black mints and tell them that these mints are called... disappoint-mints. Ask them if they know what disappoint-mint means---when you are hoping for something, but it does not happen. Ask them if they can think of a time they were disappointed. (If not, share some time you were disappointed.) In today's Bible reading, there is a person named John. John has tried to do what he thought God wanted him to do. But John has to go to jail because he did what God wanted him to do. John didn't want to go to jail, so he was disappointed. And John sends a message to Jesus. Maybe John was hoping that Jesus would get John out of jail. But Jesus doesn't get John out of jail. So it may be that John was disappointed with Jesus. Sometimes, we will feel disappointed with Jesus because we ask for something, and it does not happen. Like with John. When that happens, we try to trust that Jesus still loves us, even though we didn't get what we want.

By Rev. Dave Quinn