

Children's Time – Living Out Surprising Love

Materials

A large box with a lift-off lid (for each Sunday); pictures of several people in the congregation who are willing to come forward and briefly tell the children one way that they live out God's surprising love (for example, "Many nurses are women, but I always wanted to help heal people, and so I am a male nurse." "I ride my bike to work even in the winter, because I want to care for the earth, and cars are not very good for the earth," or "In my spare time I make quilts, which I give away to make money for people who need help"). If possible, encourage each person to bring a visual of their surprising love.

Message

I wonder what is in this box.

(Lift the lid and take out the pictures)

I wonder what all these things have in common.

(Let the children wonder, and respond with non-judging comments)

Do you know these people? They are part of our church, and they live out God's love in surprising ways. I've asked them to come tell us about that.

(Listen to the people's sentences)

Thank you! Today we remember that the magi, people who watched the stars and had lots of riches, were some of Jesus' first visitors. These big important people traveled a long, long way to worship a baby king. I wonder what they thought when they met Jesus. Like the magi, and like [names of people in your church who just spoke to children] and others in our church, we can do surprising things to show God's love. Can you think of any fun ideas? I wonder what wonderful ways you are already showing God's surprising love, or what things you've imagined you could do.

Before you go, let's bow our heads and pray. God, thank you for surprising us with your love. Give us all kinds of good ideas of how we can live out your surprising love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

From Leader, Fall 2010. ©2010 MennoMedia.