

Funny
Rev. Sarah Campbell
Mayflower Church
Mardi Gras Sunday, 2019

I love to imagine Jesus with the children. Do you think they tell him jokes? Look at the picture. Are they whispering a joke in his ear? Maybe like: *Why do elephants paint their toenails red? So they can hide in cherry trees. Or, why did the cookie visit the doctor? He felt crummy. Why do hummingbirds hum? Because they can't remember the words. Why couldn't the pony talk? He was a little horse. Why did the bunnies go on strike? They wanted a raise in celery.*

I bet Jesus loved the children's questions and their wondering about God. Children say some of the most brilliant things.... And they also probably said funny things that made Jesus laugh. Not laugh at them but just with them. And they all might have even laughed at jokes they didn't quite get, just because it feels so good to laugh!

Sometimes I don't understand jokes. Sometimes it takes me a long time to get a joke or I have to ask someone what it means. That's okay. It's fun just to laugh!

So today is Mardi Gras Sunday and we celebrate it by telling funny jokes and eating pancakes and wearing beads and having drums in church. It's a silly day before we go into the serious season of Lent.

Other Mardi Gras Sundays, I say funny thing that adults say in church. But because there are so many children in church today, I'm going to share funny things children have said in church or about church...Religion can be really funny no matter what age you are.

And if you hear a funny thing in church sometime, or see something funny, maybe something your little sibling or big sibling or mom or dad or your Sunday school teacher says... would you share it with me? I might just use it next Mardi Gras!

Let's hear some churchy jokes, shall we??

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what she was drawing. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The Flight to Egypt," was his reply.

Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius – the pilot!"

A bible class teacher asked her students, "Do you believe the story about Lot's wife? How she looked back and turned into a pillar of salt?" One little boy said, "Sure I do. Just yesterday my mother looked back and turned into a telephone pole."

Casey asked her Sunday School teacher a question: "If the people of Israel are Israelites, and the people of Canaan are Canaanites, are the people of Paris called Parasites?"

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to the church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." Joel asked, "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

3-year-old, Reese prayed in church: "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys."

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings. At bedtime, she would repeat the lines from the prayer after me. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from E-mail. Amen."

A father was preparing pancakes for his sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their father saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A mommy invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and asked, "Would you like to say the blessing?" The girl replied, "I wouldn't know what to say." Her mother told her, "Just say what you hear Mommy say." The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?"

"No ma'am," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My mom is a good cook."

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

A little girl was attending a wedding for the first time, and she whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life," her mother tried to explain, keeping it simple. The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So, why's the groom wearing black?"

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?"

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, And I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."

Knock knock whose there. Saul. Saul who? Saul there is. There isn't any more!