



## Right Here Right Now Jesus Colors



Last week we saw what Jesus said about bringing God's Kingdom to earth. He boiled it down to two simple things: Loving God completely and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. (Matthew 22:37-39) We looked at the good Samaritan story and how our neighbor is anyone in our life.

But let's go back to the first thing Jesus said: loving God completely. How do we do that? Now the Bible says Jesus loved us first. In fact it says that the reason we love Him is because He loved us first! (See 1 John 4:19) And Jesus said that if we love Him, we will follow His instructions. So when we follow Jesus, that's the way we are saying "Jesus, I love you back." It's following his instructions.

A. Youth: Treasure hunt - Look in John 14 and 15 for how many times Jesus says something like if we love Him, we will obey His commands or instructions.

Do you remember the story Jesus told about two people who built houses?

Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27:

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and **does them** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

But everyone who hears these words of mine and **does not do them** is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Today we're going to focus on words. God's Word is powerful, but so are our words! Some of you may remember our song, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path"?

That's talking about God's word. But what about our words? The way we speak is one way we follow Jesus.

Take a look in the mirror. You will see your reflection. The mirror doesn't lie! You look great today. Our words are like a mirror. They reflect what is in our hearts.

1. If I am grateful, I say \_\_\_\_\_
2. If I am filled with love, I say \_\_\_\_\_
3. If I notice you're feeling sad, I say \_\_\_\_\_
4. And if we choose not to forgive, we say that we won't. Hmm. Of course Jesus said that if we don't forgive, our Father in heaven \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus sent Holy Spirit to guide us and give us power to be forces for Jesus in the world. When we listen to Holy Spirit and follow, we shine with the colors of Jesus. Then the people around us experience **His Presence**, even though they may not know it right away. We're making Jesus bigger; that's called **glorifying** Him.

Dip a pretend paintbrush into God's love and paint the world around you with some hope! Here are a few ways and you can find a lot more!

- Listen to what you want to say before you say it sometimes this week. Check it out with Jesus before speaking and see what happens.
- Ask Holy Spirit to help you hear what Jesus wants you to know about situations.
- Maybe your sister or brother is tired or feeling lonely and would love to play a game or take a walk with you. Use your words – invite them. (They may say no, but you tried!)
- Maybe your mom or dad needs to hear you say 'I love you' or a hug. Don't be stingy!
- Maybe saying, "Can I help?" to someone in your home is a better idea than complaining about how bored you are or getting on a computer. Let Holy Spirit nudge you.

#### Activity – Color the World Around You with Jesus

Materials: Paper towels

Food coloring

Small bowls or shallow cups

1. Mix a few drops of food coloring with a small amount of water in several small bowls or cups
2. Fold a paper towel again and again until you have a small square
3. (Option: you can fold final square on the diagonal and round the edge with scissors)
4. Dip each corner of the folded paper towel quickly into a colored water. Let excess water drip back into bowl. Then go to dye the next corner with another color.
5. You may unfold and refold your bundle in a different direction to dye the middle.
6. Unfold the paper, hang it or lay it out to dry. Tape it onto a window for a stained glass effect!

Optional art project: Make your own picture series of a house built on a rock and a house built on sand and what happens when a storm hits.

Key: A. (Youth) Jn 14:15, 23, 15:10 and 14.

1. Thank you 2. I love you 3. I'm sorry you're sad. Can I help? 4. Won't forgive us