

Children's Sermon:

Good morning everyone. I'm going to ask you to try something a little different this morning. I want you to look out at the congregation and give them your best smile. And congregation, I want you to smile back. Let's all just take a moment and smile at each other.

(Pause and encourage everyone to participate)

Now, how did that make you feel? Happy? Maybe a little silly? What about joyful?

And how easy was that? You didn't have to drive anywhere or answer any hard questions. You didn't even have to move! That's how simple it is to share the joy of God with others.

Do any of you remember a time when you had a really bad day? And, do you remember how that made you feel? You might have slouched down and had a frown on your face. Probably didn't feel like smiling, did you?

There are lots of people who have really bad days. Some may have lost their jobs or their homes, or they may not have enough food to eat. Some people walk around like this *(demonstrate slouch and unhappy face)* every single day. Those people are having trouble seeing the joy of God.

Well, there is a ministry called Lutheran Services Carolinas, or LSC for short, and they help bring God's joy to people in need. They might provide loving homes for children or help someone who is out of work. LSC also helps families who have lost their homes because of a hurricane. They do a lot of good things for people who are sad.

Did you know that even young people like you can help others feel God's joy? The simplest thing we can do is to give them our smile. Remember when we all smiled at each other earlier? It made us feel happy, right? So, if you see someone that doesn't look very happy, try giving them a really big smile and share God's joy with them.

There are lots of other things we can do to help others who are having a hard time, like sharing our time and our things with them or listening to their stories. All of these will help

others have just as much joy in God as we all do. As you go home today, I want you to think about what you can do each day to help someone who might not be able to see God's joy.

Let us pray.

Dear God, thank you so much for sharing your joy with us. Help us to reach out to others who may not be able to see your joy. Give us the strength to share, to listen, and especially to smile. Help all of us live our lives as God's joyful people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.