

Children's sermon: July 19, 2009

"The angel GLADNESS"

Who ... in the whole world ... takes the best care of you????

Mom? Dad? God?????

How about the "angel Gladness"????

Do you believe in angels? There are lots of angels out there ... who love and care and love some more!!

The angel Gladness is a nice big bucket. Can you hear all the "LOVE" inside of her????

And ---- she has a special kind of love for this little bucket ... his name is Fred.

Fred really can't take care of himself ... so, Gladness is the one who helps him get through life.

Fred is going through some tough times.

He was just "cut" from the soccer team.

He got a D- on his report card.

But the hardest thing of all ----- he is very sick.

So ---- Fred's little "bucket world" is all upside-down.

And ... even tho' she is an angel ... and even tho' she has lots of love inside of her ...
the angel Gladness' love-bucket world has been turned upside down. She can't stand seeing little Fred
so sick ... it makes her sad ... her world may never be the same.

My friends ... have you ever heard me say this??? ---- WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!!

Well ... it's true.

This big bucket over here heard about Fred and his loving angel.

And ... the big buck over there she heard about Fred and the angel Gladness.

They are talking: *We need to do something to help Gladness and Fred. The angel Gladness is sad ...*

Fred is hurting ... let's do something!!

They come over to Gladness and Fred.

Listen ... we know you are going through a lot.

So ... we are reaching deep inside our buckets. We want you to know --- YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

The one bucket pulls out two magnets: "Hey we need to STICK TOGETHER!!"

The other bucket reaches deep inside his soul ... and he pulls out a little rubber ball:

"When you love others ... it helps them BOUNCE BACK!!"

Yes ... the angel Gladness smiles ... so does Fred. Magnets ... and sticking together.

Balls ... and bouncing back.

It had been a while since they laughed.

Even angels need a boost once in a while.

Well ... Fred is still a bit sick ... and the angel Gladness still gets sad from time to time.

But ---- they know they are not alone: after all, *we're all in this together.*

And ... when we are together ... when we stick together ... we have the strength to BOUNCE BACK.

For each of you, my friends ---- two magnets and a rubber ball.

Remember: stick together ... it'll help you bounce back!!