

Sermon with Children – September 9, 2007

(I invite the children to join me in front of the altar, where we sit around a small table.)

Suppose you wanted to build a tower with regular wooden blocks, and didn't use any tape or glue but just piled them on top of each other. What might happen to that tower if somebody jiggled the table? (The tower would fall down.)

Suppose you decided to use Legos. (I bring out a narrow tower of Legos) so the pieces would stick together, what might happen? (Demonstration: the tower tips over.) Right. So, what do we need to do to build a tower that will stay up even if somebody jiggles the table? (Have a foundation.)

That's right. (I bring out a Lego foundation, and then start building a cross with Legos.) If you have a strong foundation, and you use Legos so all the pieces interlock, even if someone jiggles the table, what we've built will stay standing.

Jesus and Moses tell us in today's Bible stories that our love for God has to be the foundation for all our other loves (I touch the foundation.) If we have love for God as the first thing in our lives, and then we build love for ourselves and our families (the body of the cross) on top of love for God, our love for our families and ourselves will be stronger and more able to stand up in shaky situations than if we try to love our families and ourselves without loving God. And, we can build onto our love for God, for our families and ourselves, our love for friends and the whole world (cross bar of the cross.) You see how strong this is if you start with love for God as the foundation and build on top of it? Done right, all these loves strengthen each other, too.

(We stand up.) So every morning when we get up, we can put our feet on the floor (stomp, stomp) and say that the foundation of our lives is our love for God, then we build on it our love for our families and for ourselves (I run my hands up my body) and then we can reach out (we stretch out our arms) in love to other people and the whole world! We can do this, because God loves us this much!

So whenever you see a cross, think about how much God loves you, and how we can build all our loves on a strong foundation if we start by loving God!

The Rev. Francis A. Hubbard

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey